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Champion
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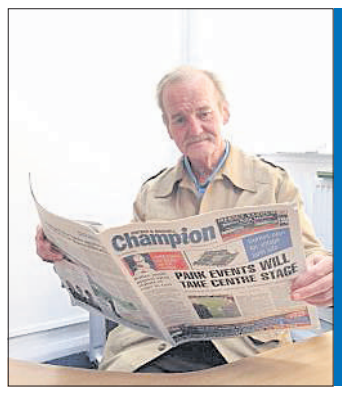


Our Jim commended at regional awards

Remembering the fallen...

The mayor lays a wreath at Ormskirk's war memorial on Remembrance Sunday

REMEMBRANCE services were held across West Lancs to honour the fallen of the two world wars and other conflicts.

The mayor, Councillor Liz Savage, attended a service and two-minute silence on Armistice Day (Friday, November 11) at the Clock Tower in Ormskirk.

There was also a short service and a two-minute silence at the HMS Ringtail Monument in Burscough after which wreaths were laid at the monument.

The annual Remembrance Sunday parades and services were held on Sunday, November 13.

The mayor attended an early-morning parade starting at St Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Ormskirk, which included a minute's silence, Last Post and Reveille before marching to the war memorial in Coronation Park for a service and the laying of wreaths and on to Ormskirk Parish Church for the main service.

Cllr. Savage also attended an afternoon parade and service in Burscough.

More pictures inside

COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND CANCER BATTLER HANNAH

by **Danielle Thompson**

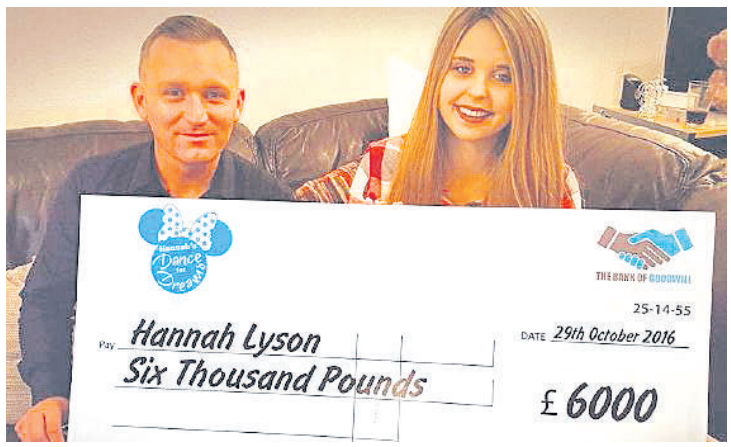
THE West Lancashire community has rallied around a teenager who is battling cancer by raising £16,000 to fulfil her dream of a trip-of-a-lifetime to Disney World in Florida.

Aspiring air hostess Hannah Lyson from Ormskirk was devastated when she was diagnosed with bowel and liver cancer.

After undergoing an operation on her bowel and chemotherapy to tackle four secondary tumours in her liver, the 19-year-old was told her tumours had shrunk only to learn days later that the cancer had in fact spread to her pelvis, uterus and bowel!

Following her initial diagnosis, Hannah started a blog entitled A Worthwhile Adventure and set up a page on social media site Facebook, Hannah's Bowel Cancer Journey.

She has also campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of the symptoms of bowel cancer and strived to document all aspects of her treatment, including being fitted with a colostomy bag, as well as giving regular live updates on her diagnosis.



Hannah receives the cheque for £6,000 from Joe George

When she learned her current chemotherapy would make her lose her hair she opted to shave it off herself, which she bravely filmed, and now wears wigs.

She has also raised more than £860 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Meanwhile, her boyfriend Paul Healey and a Burscough DJ, Joe George, launched fundraisers for Hannah to help fulfil a host of activities on her online bucket list.

Paul set up a fundraising page on online donations site Go Fund Me hoping to raise up to £5,000 for Hannah to go to Disney World in Florida and on a Disney Cruise.

However the couple were struggling to get insurance for the trip, which has been funded by Dreams Come True, a charity which helps children and young people with serious and life-limiting conditions.

Paul also wants to help her to complete fun activities on her list including quad biking and going on the London Eye.

The page has raised a staggering £10,000 to date.

Meanwhile Joe George organised a special party for Hannah and her family. Hannah arrived in a white, horse-drawn carriage for the event and more than 600 people attended raising £6,000.

Joe presented Hannah with a cheque for that amount on Saturday (November 12) prompting her to post: "I keep saying how I can't understand why people would donate, let alone fundraise for me just because of what I'm going through but I'm really grateful. Thank you so much, you all really are my dream team."

And the fundraising efforts are continuing. Rachel Cheetham and Marie Winders, co-owners of the Enjoy Wellness Gym in Burscough are holding a Gymathon Family Fundraiser for Hannah this Saturday (November 19) from 8.30am to 6.30pm.

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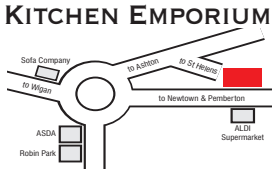

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Council accused of lacking plan for green bin charge

Report by **Henry James**

A WEST Lancs Borough councillor has accused the Labour-controlled authority of introducing the £30 green bin charge with no firm plan about how it will work, leaving residents in the dark about the controversial scheme.

Derby ward Our West Lancashire representative, Councillor Adrian Owens said that when he asked officers charged with operating the new scheme how it would work they were unable to provide answers to any of the question he posed.

Cllr. Owens said: "I asked them when the charge would start – no answer. I asked them how they would tell who had paid the charge and who hadn't – no answer. I asked them whether residents who didn't pay the charge would keep their green bin or would those bins be collected back – again, no answer.

"The decision to introduce this charge flew in the face of the strongest public opposition I can recall. However to make the decision with no plan as to how to carry it out beggars belief!

"No doubt, they will get ideas from the councils who have already gone down this route, but the lack of thought that has gone into this is appalling.

"The council leadership should be ashamed to be making up policy as they go along. They need a plan quickly and they need to let residents know what will happen. The best plan, of course, would be to ditch the idea altogether, but Labour are deaf to that."

A spokesman for the borough council responded: "Council officers did not draw up the final details as to how this scheme would work before it was agreed at the council meeting as to do so would have been a waste of staff resources if the proposal was not proceeded with.

"A team is in place to deliver the project and we have a lot of experience of delivering similar large-scale projects.

"When the charge is introduced next year residents will be able to choose whether or not they wish to use the council's garden waste service. If they do not wish to pay the charge they do not have to use our service and can dispose of their garden waste by other appropriate and legal means.

"Each household that has paid the charge will have its garden waste bin labelled so staff know it is to be emptied. New computer technology in the council's refuse vehicles will also help staff identify which residents have paid the charge.

Publicised

"There will not be any discounts or exemptions to the garden waste service charge. If households wish to use our service they will have to pay.

"Details about the garden waste charge scheme will be provided to all residents, will be publicised and will also appear on the council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse in due course."

Meanwhile the Champion has discovered that West Lancashire's green waste is disposed off by Lancashire County Council after it is collected by the borough council.

John Birch, the county council waste contracts and partnerships manager, said: "We have contracts in place to compost Lancashire's green waste, which ensures it is recycled and does not contribute to landfill.

"West Lancashire's green waste is taken to a local contractor who process it and turn it into compost."

The Champion then asked the county council if any profit was made by the authority in this process, but they did not respond.

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Countdown to the big switch-on!

Variety of entertainment lined up for Christmas lights extravaganza

WEST Lancs Council have announced the arangements for this year's Christmas Lights switch on in Ormskirk town centre on Friday, November 25.

From noon to 4pm families can go to Moor Street to dance along to Vintage DJs playing Christmas music and enjoy a cuppa outside Gertie the Vintage Caravan Tea Room, open until 8pm.

An amazing snow globe will be on Moor Street from around 2pm creating a fabulous photo opportunity in a Winter Wonderland scene as a family keepsake or a special Christmas Card.

From 4.30 to 6pm there's a variety of entertainment on and around the stage at the Clock Tower, including family entertainer 'Fun Steve' and vocalist Sarah, followed by Circus Frank and the superb 'Ormskirk Rock Choir' who will be entertaining the crowds with popular favourites.

Favourite children's characters Christmas Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Peppa Pig and one of the Minions will be in town meeting and greeting, while Silcocks amusements will provide children's rides throughout the event.

Compere Andy Jay will continue the party atmosphere by introducing a popular Michael Buble tribute act, leading up to the carol service at 6pm.

Dignitaries and fellow guests will assemble at Ormskirk Parish Church before processing to the sounds of a piper to the main stage for the carol service.

Local clergy will conduct the carol service assisted by Skelmersdale Prize Brass Band and the Friends in Unison Choir.

Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage will give a Christmas address and be joined by guests together with Don Evans, the borough's town crier who will lead the crowd in the countdown before the mayor pulls the switch at 6.30 p.m.

The Chapel Gallery's Christmas Market will be open from noon to 8pm and is free to enter. Visitors can browse stalls while enjoying artisan foods and a festive atmosphere.

From 6 to 8pm, the gallery will host fairground games, a face painter and creative activities. A caricaturist will draw free, fun portraits - perfect Christmas presents - and there will be live music, plus a complementary glass of mulled wine while stocks last.

There will also be stalls in the outdoor Christmas fair marquee which will be open from noon until 8pm complementing the Chapel Gallery Christmas Market.

Provided by the local Rotary Club, Santa will be in his special grotto in the marquee from approximately 4.30pm anxiously waiting to hear Christmas presents lists.

And the Christmas theme continues on Saturday, November 26 with the monthly Makers' Market at the Chapel Gallery and return of Gertie the Vintage Caravan Tea Room and the fantastic Vintage DJs located on Moor Street.

Children and families can enjoy the Christmas-themed Gingerbread Trail and enter a prize draw by visiting Ormskirk Community Partnership's stall on Moor Street.

All activities are between 10am and 4pm.

On Sunday, November 27 the Chapel Gallery hosts a Christmas-themed Vintage and Handmade Market between 10am and 4pm, with Punch and Judy shows at 11am, 12.30pm and 3pm.

Flashback to last year's Christmas Lights switch-on...organisers will be hoping for kinder weather to greet the crowds this time

Care watchdog tells hospital trust to make further improvements

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital Trust requires considerable improvements to make both sites safer, more effective, responsive and an improvement in leadership, according to a care watchdog report.

Inspectors from the Care and Qualities Commission visited the trust in April to see how much improvement had been made since its previous report in May 2015.

Some positives could be taken from the report, which was released on Tuesday (November 15), as the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Unit at Southport Hospital improved two levels from inadequate to good with some aspects of outstanding practice.

Inspectors also noted improvements the maternity service had made at Ormskirk Hospital, rating it requires improvement. It was previously rated inadequate.

But overall improvements still need to be made to raise the hospitals' rating further. Perhaps most damningly the CQC has rated the accident and emergency department and the surgical services at Southport and Formby District General Hospital as inadequate.

Inspectors found that the hospital did not give sufficient priority to safety in urgent care.

Patients needing urgent care were waiting too long to be seen and assessed, with some remaining in the department under the supervision of ambulance staff for up to 11 hours.

In surgery at Southport and Formby District General Hospital, staff did not always assess, monitor or manage risks to people who use the services and opportunities to prevent or minimise harm were missed.

Medically deteriorating patients were not always identified promptly and there could be a delay before medical assessment was undertaken.

The recruitment of suitable medical staff was challenging with vacancies for junior doctors and consultants.

Recruitment and retention of nursing and midwifery had been a longstanding issue.

However, the inspectors found there had been a notable improvement in both the maternity services and the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre which had both received inadequate ratings at the last inspection. The Chief Inspector of Hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "Two years ago we identified a number of problems at Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust.

"I am disappointed that overall the progress has been limited and that we have found a deterioration in the safety and quality of some of the trust's services, particularly in the emergency department at Southport and Formby Hospital.

"I note with concern the delays in patients being assessed in the accident and emergency department, and the risks to safety in surgery which must be addressed.

"Since our inspection earlier this year the trust has taken steps to improve – and we are monitoring that on a monthly basis.

"On the other hand, there have been significant improvements in all aspects of patient care and treatment at the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Unit that we had previously rated as inadequate for safety. It is now rated as good with some aspects of outstanding practice.

"We have also found improvements within the maternity service although there is room for further progress."

Rob Gillies, executive medical director, said: "The inspection they said the trust possessed 'committed, compassionate, and passionate staff who are willing to go above and beyond to do their best for patients'. We are delighted to see this confirmed."

Responding to the rating of A&E and surgical services at Southport, Mr Gillies said significant progress had been made on the issues the inspectors raised seven months ago.

"We have benefited from external support and put in resources of our own, including an extra £600,000 for nurses staffing. This has contributed to a major improvement with the department regularly the best performer in Cheshire and Merseyside and consistently among the top performers in the country," he said.

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Second hospital boss found guilty of gross misconduct

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

Southport Hospital

ANOTHER former senior staff member at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has been found guilty of gross misconduct.

Despite the fact she has already resigned from the trust, an investigation into whistle-blowing complaints found former director of human resources, Sharon Partington guilty of gross misconduct

The trust has confirmed that the disciplinary hearings in respect of allegations against Sharon Partington and the former chief operating officer, Sheilah Finnegan, have now concluded.

Ms Partington resigned and Mrs Finnegan retired from the trust's employment prior to the conclusion of the disciplinary process.

However, due to the nature of the allegations and the seniority of those involved, the trust was obliged to complete the disciplinary process, asking the disciplinary panels to consider what, if any action, would have been taken if the individuals had remained employed by the trust.

Following Ms Partington's disciplinary hearing, it was determined that the former director of human resources would have been dismissed as a consequence of gross misconduct had she remained in employment.

Ms Partington has the right of appeal against the decision.

The decision follows the outcome of a disciplinary hearing which reviewed eight allegations of misconduct.

The disciplinary panel found evidence on six counts of misconduct, one of which amounted to gross misconduct.

The independent disciplinary panel considered three allegations of misconduct against Mrs Finnegan and determined that the allegations were not proven. The panel recommended that had Mrs Finnegan remained in employment no disciplinary sanction would have been imposed on her.

The panel hearing the allegations against Mrs Finnegan did note that the case involved serious matters arising from whistle-blowing complaints and noted that the trust "had no option but to instigate a thorough investigation" under the relevant policy and then to refer the outcome of the investigation to a disciplinary hearing.

The panels' recommendations have been fully accepted by the trust board.

Trust chair, Mrs Sue Musson, said: "The overriding objective for the trust has been to handle this very serious and complex matter appropriately and fairly.

"I want to thank the panels for conducting the hearings and reviewing all the evidence so diligently. With the conclusion of these hearings, the four disciplinary cases involving trust senior staff are now complete (subject to appeal).

"The board continues to focus on our key priority, delivering high-quality, sustainable healthcare services to our local population.

"I would like, again, to acknowledge the bravery of the individuals who came forward and spoke out about their concerns. Following this difficult time for everyone concerned, the trust now has an opportunity to focus on the future."

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County backtracks on crossing plan

LANCASHIRE County Council transport chiefs have ditched plans for a pedestrian crossing in Ormskirk town centre after protests by local residents.

Last month the Champion revealed that more than 500 residents had signed a petition urging the council not to install a second pedestrian crossing on Aughton Street.

The campaign was backed by Knowsley ward councillor Nikki Hennessy and was also supported by Aughton Street businesses. They raised concerns on the grounds of the impact on local businesses who rely heavily on passing trade and also claimed it would be a waste of funds as there is a pelican crossing only yards away and there haven't been any traffic incidents on that road.

The crossing had been proposed between the junctions with Park Road and Bridge Street to improve pedestrian movements and make it easier to access shops and services in the area.

The proposal was based on initial analysis which had shown a record of injury incidents, and that pedestrians were finding it difficult to cross the road.

An early informal consultation with residents and businesses indicated some support for a scheme, with a balance of positive and negative responses being received, and changes were made to improve the design.

Councillor Fillis

However, formal consultation on what had been proposed as a final design resulted in a number of strong objections being received from local residents, businesses, and councillors focused on the loss of car parking spaces that would be removed to accommodate the new crossing.

Following this the county council carried out further investigations and found that the accident record did not strongly support a crossing at this location, as one injury had occurred some distance away from the proposed crossing point, and others had occurred when vehicles turned off Aughton Street on to side roads.

County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, took a formal decision not to proceed with the proposal on Thursday, November 10.

He said: "We've listened to the strong objections to the proposed pedestrian crossing and carried out further work to check on the original justification for the scheme.

"I realise the importance of the on-street car parking spaces, particularly to local businesses, and further investigation has shown that, while the crossing would help people to cross Aughton Street more easily, there's no strong justification for it on safety grounds.

"I'd like to thank local residents, businesses, and local councillors for responding to the consultation and helping me to reach the decision not to go ahead with the proposed crossing."

Police appeal after 19-year-old suffers fractured eye socket

POLICE have launched a CCTV appeal following an assault in Ormskirk town centre that left a man with a fractured eye socket.

Officers were called after the man was attacked in the car park of the The Court Leet pub in Wheatsheaf Walk at around 1am on Sunday, October 30.

The 19-year-old victim, from Burscough, was outside the venue when he was approached by another man.

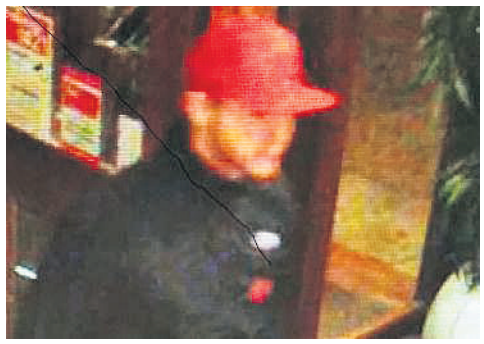
The offender punched the victim, knocking him unconscious, before making off in the direction of Ormskirk Police Station.

The victim suffered a fractured eye socket and severe bruising and needed hospital treatment.

Following an investigation police have released CCTV images of the a man theywould like to speak to in connection with the incident.

PC Stu Mansfield, of Skelmersdale Police, said: "We are appealing for information after a man was viciously attacked in Ormskirk.

"The victim was knocked unconscious, suffering a fractured eye socket.



The police want to speak to this man

"Following enquiries, we want to speak to the man in thse images who we believe left the area after the assault, possibly travelling to Wigan.

"If you recognise him, please contact police immediately."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting crime reference SB1604474.

New Burscough FC ground application withdrawn

PLANS to create a new football ground for Burscough FC were withdrawn ahead of last week's council meeting after a farmer raised concerns over the provision of alternative land for protected pink-footed geese.

Development company Chequer Properties' planning application was withdrawn from West Lancs Council's planning committee agenda on Thursday, November 10 after further information was received, which indicated that there may be issues in the provision of the alternative land for the pink footed geese.

The application for the replacement ground for the Linnets includes a new pitch, a two-storey, 480-seat main stand and clubhouse, single-storey secondary stand, floodlighting, terracing and a car park to the west of the current ground, with access from Bobby Langton Way.

The plans were submitted to the borough council in August last year. Planning officers had previously recommended that the plans were to be approved at the meeting, before the extra information was provided and the application was withdrawn.

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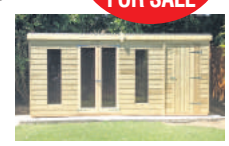

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Winter Warm Scheme offered for fourth year

by Danielle Thompson

Eligible home owners in borough can once again apply to have gas heating appliances serviced or replaced free of charge

ELIGIBLE home owners in West Lancashire can apply now for free gas heating appliance servicing, repair or replacement.

Owner-occupiers in the borough are once again being offered an opportunity to have their gas heating appliances repaired free of charge to help keep them warm and save money on their gas bills this winter.

West Lancs Council has received funding from Lancashire County Council's public health team to offer the West Lancs Winter Warm Scheme for a fourth year.

Limited

Under the scheme, gas heating appliances, including gas fires and boilers, can be repaired or replaced, subject to certain conditions.

The scheme is available to qualifying owner-occupiers who are in receipt of certain benefits, who suffer with certain health conditions and do not have a plan in place that covers boiler repairs.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "This scheme really could help people feel warmer in their homes and I would urge owner-occupiers to check if they are eligible to apply."

Tenants cannot apply as it is landlords' responsibility to maintain or replace any heating appliances including gas boilers.

The scheme will run until March 31 next year but funding is limited so residents are encouraged to apply early.

To find out if you are eligible and apply to the West Lancs Winter Warm Scheme, contact the council's private sector housing team on 01695 585279 or for more information visit westlancs.gov.uk/winterwarm.

Owner-occupiers in West Lancs can apply to the Winter Warm Scheme to help them reduce energy bills this winter

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Council report calls for new strategy to explore more ways of boosting town's tourism appeal

EXPLORING more ways of attracting tourists to Ormskirk and refurbishing Aughton Street to match the Moor Street improvements are two of the recommendations in a new West Lancs Council report.

The council's corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee has produced 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' after a review of the town centre which covered a number of topics.

These included Ormskirk Market; car parking; leisure and the night-time economy, technology and marketing (including tourism); and the contribution of Edge Hill University to the town.

The committee has come up with a number of recommendations which services within the borough council and Lancashire County Council will be asked to look at.

In terms of tourism the borough council will be looking at encouraging cultural tourism through visitor attractions such as the Chapel Gallery and promoting Ormskirk as a visitor destination.

There is also a whole host of recommendations for the events square on Moor Street, including working to ensure it is adaptable for day and evening events and provides an opportunity for wider community use.

Councillor Nikki Hennessy

In relation to the market, the report advises that there should be provision for a mixture of traditional and non-traditional stalls and stall canopies be replaced with matching or branded ones.

The report recommends the council continues the close association with Edge Hill University as it is a major contributor to the local economy.

Car parking recommendations are to continue ongoing discussions with Merseyrail regarding car parking arrangements at Ormskirk railway station and consider alternative ways of paying for parking.

As well as considering options for Aughton Street, the county council will be asked to look at a variety of traffic issues including town centre congestion.

The work undertaken by the committee complements the action plan set out in the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, and the findings of the review will be fully considered by the town centre management group and associated working groups.

Councillor Nikki Hennessy, chairman of the corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee, said: "The report has a series of important recommendations to help make Ormskirk an even better place to live, work and visit. I would like to thank members of the committee, past and present, and external contributors that have assisted the work of the committee with this review."

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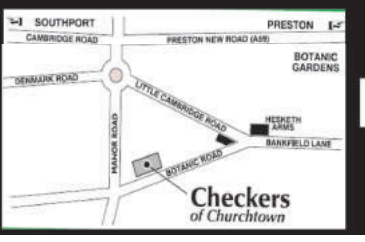

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The mayor, Cllr. Liz Savage, assisted by Jess Robinson, chair of the Friends of St Bede's, plants one of the trees to mark the school's Diamond Jubilee, watched by students Aidan Lees and Laura Meehan, headteacher Chris Horrocks and mayor's consort, Cllr. Noel Delaney.

Friends mark school's diamond milestone

THE parent-teacher association of an Ormskirk school have marked its Diamond Jubilee with a series of events including burying a time capsule in the grounds.

The Friends of St Bede's Catholic High celebrated the 60th anniversary milestone by burying the capsule under two new cherry trees in a ceremony in the grounds of the school in St Anne's Road.

The ceremony was attended by Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney, a former pupil who was present on the school's opening day.

A contest for pupils to come up with a list of ideas for what to bury in the capsule was won by Matthew Reynolds of Year 10, while Year 8 pupil Isabella Murray won a competition to design a logo which will be used to highlight the diamond anniversary.

Jess Robinson, chairperson of the Friends of St Bede's, said: "The school celebrates its 60th year this academic year and we decided to kick off the celebrations with a ceremony to bury a time capsule in the school grounds.

"We are also planning a number of events throughout the year to commemorate this special milestone. I believe it's quite a novelty having a PTA in a high school nowadays.

"We will also be hosting a Diamond Jubilee evening on July 15 next year and the whole school, plus parents, past pupils and former staff will celebrate Mass together in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on July 20 which anyone is welcome to attend.

"If anyone has any photographs or newspaper cuttings of pupils or staff from the school from the last 60 years, please email them to jesslingsby@aol.com.

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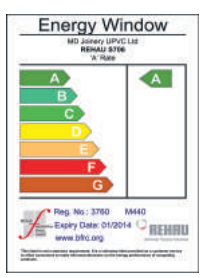

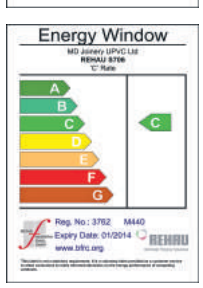

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Pupils swap classroom for council chamber

Pupils and teachers from Cobbs Brow and Wrightington Mossy Lea primary schools with the mayor, Councillor Liz Savage, in the council chamber

PUPILS from West Lancs schools went 'behind the scenes' to find out how the borough council works as part of Local Democracy Week.

The annual event is aimed at helping young people to learn more about their local council and the important role it plays.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, welcomed groups of young people to the council chamber for a day which included debates and mock voting exercises.

Children from Cobbs Brow, Skelmersdale and Wrightington Mossy Lea primary schools attended in the morning and pupils from St Bede's Catholic High School, Ormskirk took part in a mock meeting of the council in the afternoon.

Each school appointed a 'chief officer' to help run the meeting alongside the mayor with the remaining children acting as councillors.

The theme of both sessions was 'respect'.

In the morning the pupils put forward their views on encouraging respect for our surroundings on where dogs are allowed to freely be.

In the afternoon the high school pupils considered the theme of respect of council-owned tenanted property and the principles to be included in the tenants' agreement.

Following the debate the pupils cast their votes at the 'polling station' specially set up for them. The idea is to give the children a taste of debating and decision-making processes.

Councillor Savage said: "Holding a mock debate is a lively and interesting way for local children to learn about local government and understand how councils work. I was impressed by the pupils' enthusiasm in the debate and the voting exercise that followed.

"I hope the event really sparked an interest for the pupils and that it will encourage them to take an interest in their local council and some of the decision-making processes that are used."

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Martin Mere news

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It is not only the Whooper swans and thousands of adults that like to visit WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre at this time of year, it is also a great time for schools to study seasonal changes and learn about migration.

Burscough St. John's CE Primary School is one of the local schools that visit Martin Mere over the winter and last week, 17 Year 2 and Year 3 children came along to experience winter at the centre. Between November and March, Martin Mere offer schools guided learning sessions all about the amazing migration of the Whooper Swans. Over 2,000 of them come from Iceland to spend the winter at Martin Mere.

Laura Belger from the Burscough St. John's CE Primary School, said: "This is the 3rd year we have visited Martin Mere – of all the trips we do, this is my favourite as it is so hands on and the children absolutely love it. At school, at this time of year, we do science based on seasonal changes in our local area so I feel that it is really important to learn about migration and why the swans come all this way to our home town for winter. This morning we have been in the hide, using binoculars and looking at the swans, done the incredible journeys workshop and learnt about habitats – and we are just about to do some badge making so the children have a souvenir to take home – we simply wrap up warm and I highly recommend this time of year to visit Martin Mere."

For Key Stage 1, Martin Mere's guided learning session help teachers to cover the topics of 'local environments' and 'seasonal change'. For Key Stage 2, we use our interactive, enquiry based session to enrich their learning about the structure of birds, classification, life cycles and changing environments.

Laura continues: "Being local we have also been able to take advantage of the children being dropped off by parents at the centre which is a big saving on hiring a coach – this is a great added benefit that the centre offers."

For more information about the learning sessions please call the learning team on 01704 891244 or visit wwt.org.uk/learn.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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MP supports union call for an end to shopworker abuse

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has joined leaders of the retail and service sector union Usdaw in calling for an end to abuse in the workplace.

As part of the Freedom From Fear Campaign, which seeks to prevent violence, threats and abuse directed at retail staff, the union is highlighting the problems faced by staff during Respect for Shopworkers Week (November 14 to 20).

The West Lancs MP said: "Too often retail employees are confronted with violence, threats and abuse while serving the public. It is really important we stand together and ask people to keep their cool and respect shopworkers, especially as we approach the busy Christmas shopping period.

"We must give a clear message that abusing or assaulting workers who are serving the public is totally unacceptable."

"I was personally shocked to hear about the abuse that shopworkers can receive on what can be a daily basis. No one should have to go to work expecting abuse.

"I will continue to campaign with Usdaw to provide shopworkers the support they need and deserve.

"We must give a clear message that abusing or assaulting workers who are serving the public is totally unacceptable."

Ms Cooper's support was welcomed by Usdaw general secretary, John Hannett.

He said: "We are grateful to Rosie Cooper MP for supporting our campaign to keep our members safe at work.

Rosie Cooper MP

"Often, in the course of their duties, shopworkers are expected to deal with tense and difficult situations. Unfortunately these can escalate to verbal abuse and assault.

"Over 300 shopworkers are assaulted every day and it is time to say enough is enough. Parliament has placed the legal obligation on shopworkers to enforce the law in relation to age-restricted sales and Parliament must also ensure that the law also protects shopworkers who are doing their job.

"Politicians and members of the public must work together to ensure that shopworkers get the respect they deserve."

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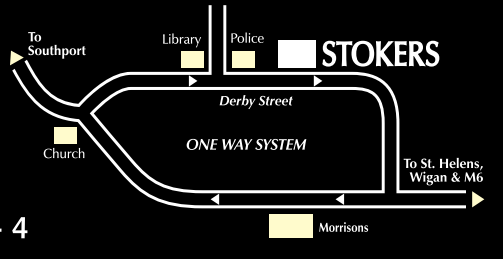

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Lights project improves safety at The Civic

A NEW lighting project has created a brighter future for The Civic in Ormskirk!

The community venue in Southport Road received £1,000 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund, a partnership between SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire and Community Futures, which awards grants to community and environmental projects that benefit the county.

This has funded a lighting renewal project throughout the historic building, replacing all existing bulbs with LED (light-emitting diode) ones – so the 115-year-old building is now benefiting from modern, energy-efficient lighting.

Liz Wainwright, one of the managers of The Civic, said that users have told her that the new lighting had made them feel safer and more comfortable.

She said: "The lighting renewal project has had a vital impact on our users. The new front light has improved safety on the front steps, the indoor lighting has improved visibility and the whole project has had a positive impact on our energy usage. This in turn helps to keep our hire prices low.

"We are extremely grateful to the LEF for their support."

For more information on the Lancashire Environmental Fund, visit lancsenvfund.org.uk.

New lighting has been installed at The Civic

Call for knitters to get clicking for charity...

KEEN knitters are being urged to get clicking to help an older people's charity!

Age UK has teamed up with drinks manufacturer Innocent to host their 13th Big Knit challenge, making small bobble-hats to adorn the company's smoothie bottles.

For each be-hatted smoothie sold, Innocent will donate 25p to help Age UK fund national and local projects that keep older people warm and well in winter.

The target for knitted hats in Lancashire is 2,000 by January. Stephanie Tufft, chief officer of Age UK Lancashire said: "We are calling on local knitters to get as many hats as possible to us by January 20."

Every hat donated to Age UK Lancashire will help fund local services which help older people access unclaimed benefits and support to live more comfortably, particularly in winter.

For more information contact Age UK Lancashire on 0300 303 1234. Knitted hats can be dropped into the nearest Age UK Lancashire shop, office or day centre.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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We will continue to resist 'unwanted and unwarranted' developments

I MUST thank the 'unnamed' Aughton resident(s) for their recent letters criticising the Aughton Residents Group's efforts, which serve to keep these ongoing issues of housing developers' appeals under the spotlight and keep local interested residents updated.

Without knowing exactly where the unnamed person(s) lives - 1.1 miles from Parrs Lane? - it is hard to be specific, but unless they live permanently with their head(s) stuck in the sand, I suspect that over the past few years they may have encountered or at least heard of other groups of concerned Aughton residents showing their resistance to unwanted development applications/plans on prime green belt land - retirement/dementia village, Prescot Road; solar panel farms (and diesel generator compound), Gerard Hall Prescot Road, Back Lane and Formby Lane; retirement village, Winifred Lane.

All of these plans / applications were strongly contested by Aughton residents and they were either withdrawn or refused.

Developers have been after the Parrs Lane land for at least 30 years and now is the nearest they've been to getting permission to turn this beautiful, best and most versatile productive farmland into a giant housing estate of some 400-plus houses (including the Prescot Road site) together with its accompanying problems which if it goes ahead will permanently alter the characteristics of this rural area.

Profit-driven developers show little or no concern for the views of or the effects on the local community or the 'legacy' that these huge developments would create and simply move around the country sometimes, as in our case. submitting 'rogue' applications contrary to Local Plans.

In the unnamed Aughton resident's letter of November 2 they raise the question of the use of the 'scant' WLBC resources and asks who's in charge of making decisions. I hope that the answer to this will never reach the stage when the developers are in charge and tell the council where and when they wish to build.

It is for those reasons that WLBC have chosen to challenge the Planning Inspector's decision relating to the building of 150 homes on Prescot Road, whilst the application to build 250 houses on Parrs Lane is still pending a decision from the Planning Inspector.

Aughton Residents Group (2012), and I hope other Aughton residents, will continue showing resistance to unwanted and unwarranted development applications.

Colin Atkinson, chairman of Aughton Residents Group (2012)

Noise and disturbances from Edge Hill will go on despite residents' group's efforts

I WRITE to remind the New Ormskirk Residents Group (Letters, October 26) about the judgment that went against us with regards to Edge Hill University in 1999.

We built a bungalow off Ruff Lane adjacent to the university (college of education as it was then) and we had 10 years of hell.

What did we expect living next to an educational establishment? Some noise certainly, of normal day-to-day activities and events. What we endured was screaming and shouting from drunken students on the campus outside our property three or four times a week, well into the early hours sometimes. Riding around on supermarket trolleys, jumping over cars in stages of undress (captured on video) were just some of their frolics.

We had many meetings with the college and promises that they would address the issue, many visits from West Lancs Council environmental officers who eventually informed us that what they had witnessed was a Statutory Noise Nuisance and an Abatement Notice would be served. This was never done as apparently the council didn't know who to serve it on.

I wanted to move and we did put the bungalow up for sale at one point, but the noise issues had to be declared and deterred potential buyers.

No-one could help us, not the police, not the council and all we got from the college was platitudes, and over the years the situation got worse rather than better.

We had no choice but to take the college to court for noise nuisance and for them to establish some control of their campus. As the hearing drew near, the college started to put measures in place to improve the situation, providing minibuses to run students back into town, rather than rampaging round, and locking the back entrance to deter students milling around.

We were then offered £7,000 to drop the case. This we agreed to do if they would keep these measures in place. They would not agree to this, so we felt we had to choice but to proceed.

After a week's stressful trial, the judge dismissed the case and it seemed we were now the 'villains'. He said our claim was 'exaggerated' and that the level of noise which existed was 'not such as to unduly interfere with the use or enjoyment of the claimant's land.'

So the case was dismissed and we had to pay costs of £100,000.

We have moved on, but week in, week out, year after year, as shown by your readers' letters, the noise and disturbances emanating from Edge Hill continue to affect people's lives, and sadly, NORG, this will continue.

Ruth Beaumont, by email

PICTURE of the week

There was a carpet of golden leaves for walkers in last Saturday's event organised by fostering group Parallel Parents who completed several circuits of Hesketh Park to raise funds for Children in Need. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Cyclists should brighten up and drivers need to watch their speed

REGARDING your timely article (Champion, October 26) about children being seen and safe during the dark evenings, recently while driving up Swanpool Lane at 7.40pm I encountered four teenage boys riding bicycles on the road. Not only were they wearing dark clothing, but none of the bicycles had lights.

Neither I nor the driver in front could see the boys until we were on top of them.

I initially wondered why the driver ahead had suddenly swung out into the opposite lane on a dark and apparently traffic-free road ahead.

The cyclists could not be seen until one was within a couple of feet of them.

Cars still drive up and down Swanpool Lane at 40 mph (even though the limit is 20mph). These boys would not have stood a chance.

David Gordon, Swanpool Lane, Ormskirk

Independent sector provider's services still free for patients

IN response to Mr C. Carr's letter (September 28) we wanted to clarify the arrangements with PDS Medical.

PDS Medical is an independent sector provider which delivers tier 2 cardiology and direct access diagnostic services locally. The cost for this service to the NHS is the same and it remains free for patients.

PDS Medical was contracted to help with demand and capacity issues we were experiencing. Not only did we need to increase capacity, we also wanted to deliver the service efficiently and safely, and accessible from people's homes.

The provider has helped to reduce the waiting times for ECGs from the trust, and the move to electronic reports for GPs has also helped the system improve.

GPs should continue to offer patient choice. However, some providers do not publish their waiting times on the system which means GPs cannot always see this level of information.

In terms of your other point about room rental, the CCG is not responsible for the contractual arrangements relating to GP property as that responsibility lies with NHS England. However, we will discuss the point you raise with the team.

NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Nowhere to park at station

ONE of the things I have enjoyed about Ormskirk is the great train service to Liverpool.

For years I have been leaving my car in the station car park and jumping on the train, so I was pleased to see an extension being created from the patch of rough ground that I nearly always ended up parking in.

Now all we have is a newly-surfaced area, with a big fence around it, completely unusable!

Several times I have arrived at the station and there is nowhere to park. Is anyone else finding this a problem, and if so what are they doing?

P. O., by email

Beware burglars 'marking your card'

WITH regards to your article on dognapping (Skelmersdale Champion, October 26) and three coloured marks on the outside of the house.

This is not always for dognapping. Some years ago the same system was used to inform burglars who worked in gangs and worked set areas each evening. A set colour for no dog. B other colours to denote size of dog.

This time of the year with Christmas coming burglars start to work overtime, so it's very important to make sure the house is secure before going to bed.

D. W., Skelmersdale (name & address supplied)

■ LETTERS to the editor should preferably be no more than 350 words long and include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

All views and opinions expressed in letters are solely those of the authors and are NOT necessarily endorsed or advocated in any way by Champion Newspapers.

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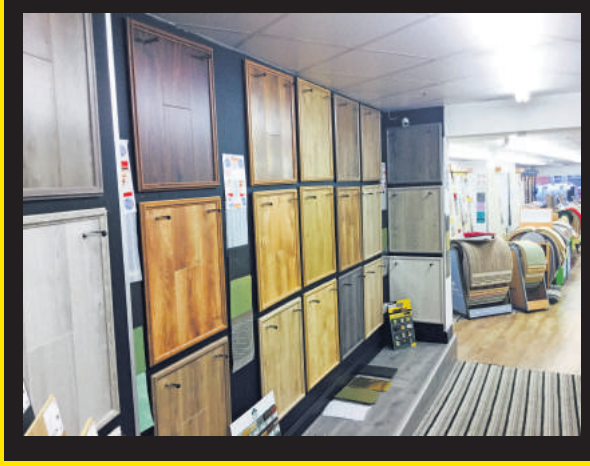

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Our Jim is highly commended at regional media awards

THE Champion's 'One Man and His Dog' columnist, Jim Sharpe, was highly commended in the finals of a regional media award.

Jim, who has reported for the Aintree and Maghull Champion for more than 20 years, beat stiff competition to reach the final four of the nominations in the O2 Media Awards 'Stand Out' category - an award which recognises outstanding achievement among individuals in journalism.

Jim was nominated for the award after the way he astonished colleagues, readers (and hospital staff!) when he managed to pen his column just days after suffering a serious heart attack in May which left him in an induced coma in Aintree Hospital for five days.

He astounded nurses with his quick recovery and managed to submit his 'One Man and His Dog' column from his hospital bed - just a day after coming out of his induced coma, so as not to miss the next edition of the Champion.

He received his Highly Commended certificate at the O2 Media Awards which were held at Chester Racecourse on Thursday, November 10.

The Champion Newspaper Group was also Highly Commended in the Free Distribution Newspaper category.

Jim Sharpe

Health chiefs in call to examine your options to stay healthy this winter

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

TO coincide with Self Care Week (November 14 to 20) health chiefs are encouraging people to be aware of how they can look after themselves this winter and to examine their options should they become ill.

They advise that by keeping fit and healthy, individuals can take control of their own health, manage minor illnesses and effectively manage long-term conditions.

Anyone needing further help is advised to think about using NHS 111 as they can direct you to the appropriate service; or go to your local chemist who can offer assistance on minor ailments and common illnesses.

Claire Heneghan, chief nurse of NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "It's important that people know when and how they can treat themselves and when they should seek further advice. By taking simple steps to look after yourself this winter, you can have a significant impact on your health and wellbeing."

Dr Robert Caudwell, chair of NHS Southport and Formby CCG, added: "When it comes to treating minor ailments and illnesses, it's important to examine your options. You can get plenty of advice from your local chemist as well as on the NHS Choices website. Remember, the accident and emergency departments and ambulance services are for life-threatening conditions. By selecting the right option, you can help the NHS to direct their focus to the patients who need it the most."

Self Care Week complements the national Stay Well This Winter campaign, encouraging people to look after themselves during the winter months – reminding them to see a pharmacist if they need advice on managing cough or cold symptoms; and for older people, a reminder to keep warm during the winter months by putting on an extra layer or turning up their heat.

More information on how everyone can use self-care to improve their health and wellbeing is available on the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk.

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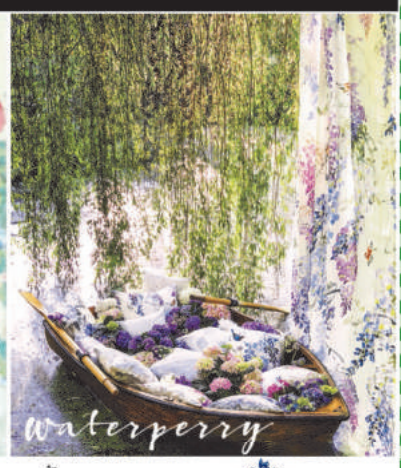

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80s night raises £500 for mayor's charities

DISCO fans took a step back in time to raise money for local good causes when they attended an 80s-themed music evening.

The Nostalgia Disco event, held at The Civic in Southport Road, Ormskirk, raised £500 for this year's Mayor of West Lancs Charity Appeal.

The mayor, Councillor Liz Savage is supporting four local charities - The Civic; the Birchwood Centre and the Artz Centre, both in Skelmersdale; and Ormskirk Hospital's neonatal unit.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and her charity committee members Liz Wainwright and Gemma Briscoe are pictured with DJs Paul, John and Mark setting up the 80s disco.

College students tackle digital skills project

STUDENTS from West Lancashire College are boosting their digital know-how, as part of a project to bridge the skills gaps in the sector.

The Digital Advantage pilot has been developed by working with industry leaders from the private sector, to help students improve their digital skills and knowledge.

It will help teachers and students to gain more understanding about digital businesses, and find out how to get into the industry, as well as giving them masterclasses in digital skills delivered by experts.

Skills needed in the digital sector include web design, advertising, software development, marketing, social media, mobile technology and e-commerce. The new Digital Advantage programme starts this month and runs until April next year.

Ten schools and colleges from throughout Lancashire will take part in the pilot, developed by the county council's Creative Lancashire team, in collaboration with the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

The programme is designed and delivered by Manchester-based The White Room which provides training and apprenticeships for companies working in or with digital media, from short-courses and apprenticeships, to large business change programmes.

MPs on the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee have warned that the UK needs an additional 745,000 workers with digital skills by 2017.

Influence

Ed Matthews-Gentle from Creative Lancashire explained: "Digital Advantage is part of our plans to tackle a lack of skills and experience in the digital sector, and businesses in other sectors who are reliant on the same skills.

"The programme is part of our efforts to address this issue around capacity here in Lancashire, and also influence the learning culture through increased knowledge exchange with the industry to supply a future workforce that's fit for purpose and can fuel the local economy."

Lisa Moizer from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub added: "We set up this project in response to feedback from Lancashire employers in the creative and digital sector, to help schools and colleges to equip their pupils with the skills and knowledge for a career in this type of creative and innovative work."

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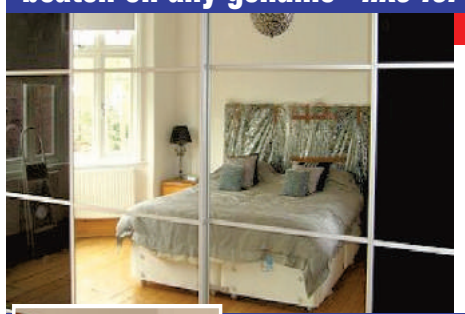

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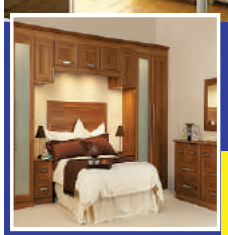

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Pollsters undone by Political Correctness...

THREE elections, three 'shock' results.

First our own General Election won by the Conservatives. Then the Brexit vote, with a result few really expected. And now the American Presidential election where the result seems to have taken the world by surprise.

On the night of the US election I stayed up until about 12.30am and despite early results going in Trump's direction, all the TV pundits were still predicting a victory for Hilary Clinton. Of course, by the time I got up in the morning everything had been stood on its head.

Apart from the results, these three elections had at least one thing in common – the so-called opinion polls got it all wrong.

Mind you, frankly the American result hardly came as a shock to me. I mean, there was the most powerful nation in the world going to the polls to elect its leader with the two most unpopular candidates the voters have ever been faced with. Personally, had I had the chance to vote, I wouldn't have, if you see what I mean.

But it seems to me that the pollsters regularly fail to take into account the simple fact that in modern-day elections at any rate, the underdog somehow still seems to win.

And in my simplistic way, I reckon I know exactly why. The simple answer is that in each of these three recent elections, what people say and what they mean are often very different.

It doesn't take a genius to work out why either. I reckon it's my old enemy, Political Correctness.

In certain parts of the UK it is regarded as de rigour to vote a certain way. You don't walk into a pub in a staunchly socialist area and say you thought Margaret Thatcher was a wonderful Prime Minister. Nor would you pontificate in a staunchly Tory market town about the glories of a socialist government. And throughout the country, most people think it is expected that you should make fun of the Lib Dems, though in fact, many people, particularly in local elections, do vote for them.

Who would have predicted the almost total collapse of the Labour vote in Scotland? No opinion polls, that's for sure. And if the same people had been right, we would still firmly be in the European Union.

I don't know how the compilers of opinion polls can get round the fact that many people say what they feel they are expected to say, even though in their hearts they know that is not the way they are going to vote. Happily, compiling opinion polls is not my job. But it seems to me that until they can get it into their heads that because a person might believe in, say, restoring smoking in pubs, they are unlikely ever to say so publicly.

Perhaps the only time you can do so is when a thing appears so unlikely as to be seen as simply silly, there is no danger in just appearing to be a buffoon. Not that many years ago, because I genuinely felt strongly about it, I would, given the chance, voice my opinion that we should leave the European Union. The usual response to that most unlikely (at the time) scenario was laughter.

Well, he who laughs last, etc.

Of course, politicians don't help themselves either. As representatives of the Government of this country, they surely have a duty to uphold the will of its people? Yet, for instance, several 'remain' campaigners in the Brexit election seem hell-bent on wrecking negotiations with the EU. And close though that vote was in percentage terms, the 'leave' campaigners won by a very substantial number of voters.

Anyway, the Americans may yet rue the day they elected Donald Trump as President - though whether Hilary would have been any better is debatable.

The losers, yet again, are the pollsters and pundits trying to tell them what they should do.

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Send your entries on a postcard to: Kindle Fire Competition, The Champion, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA. Please include a daytime contact number and your full name and address. The winners will be the senders of the first three correct entries opened after the closing date of Tuesday, November 29. Usual Champion competition rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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Social media campaign aims to raise awareness of Lancashire Day

Report by **Henry James**

MARKETING Lancashire, the organisation charged with growing the county's visitor economy and developing it as a great place to visit, work and invest, has launched a social media campaign to help raise awareness of Lancashire Day which takes place each year on November 27.

As part of the campaign social media users are being asked to illustrate their love of Lancashire and its landscape, food and culture with photography tweeted on Twitter using #LancashireDay or posting on the Visit Lancashire Facebook or Instagram pages.

The campaign will run until November 30 and Lancastrians all over the world are being encouraged to share their favourite images of the county.

On the day itself, Sunday, November 27, Lancastrians out and about enjoying the county, posting their images, may also win one of a number of spot prizes.

All tweets and posts between now and November 30, using #LancashireDay, will be included in a Grand Lancashire Day prize draw, to win an Escape for the Night package for two at Stanley House Hotel & Spa in the Ribble Valley, and a year's supply of Dewlay Lancashire Cheese.

West Lancashire's town crier, Don Evans, is a keen supporter of Lancashire Day

Last year a similar campaign reached more than 40 million people in 816 locations worldwide with #LancashireDay trending on Twitter on November 27 by 9am in the morning.

Head of PR and communications at Marketing Lancashire, Anna Izza, said: "We all have our favourite places to visit, a view or location that has special meaning, a restaurant, pub or café where we meet friends, celebrate special occasions and create great memories.

"Lancashire Day gives us the opportunity to share these and bring friends and relations, in countries across the globe, a little bit closer to home.

"Tell your Lancashire story through pictures and together we'll show the world what it means to be Lancastrian."

For information on how to take part and full terms and conditions go to visitlancashire.com/lancashireday where you'll also find ideas and events to celebrate Lancashire Day.

Closing date for the draw is Wednesday, November 30 and the winner will be notified by the end of December.

Staff and visitors at the charity baking event at Arden Lea Nurseries

Gardeners rise to baking challenge

A GROUP of green-fingered gardeners turned over a new leaf when they swapped baking for planting to raise funds for a West Lancashire children's charity.

Director Stuart Taylor and staff and visitors at Arden Lea Nurseries in Hesketh Bank created a range of delicious sweet and savoury treats.

Donations of £5 were then taken to sample them all, raising £200 for Mawdesley-based conductive education centre, Rainbow House.

The staff also judged the cakes to find the best baker, the accolade going to visitor Irene Iddon from Hesketh Bank with her custard slice with a lemon twist.

Other tasty entries included bread, quiche, Thai fishcakes with coconut and coriander, chocolate and watermelon cakes, gingerbread with lemon icing, chocolate and strawberry cake, lemon fancies, chocolate orange cake, Italian cake and plum cake.

Carole Cochrane, chief executive officer at Rainbow House, said: "We really appreciate the support of Stuart and the staff at Arden Lea Nurseries - a big thank-you to all who took part."

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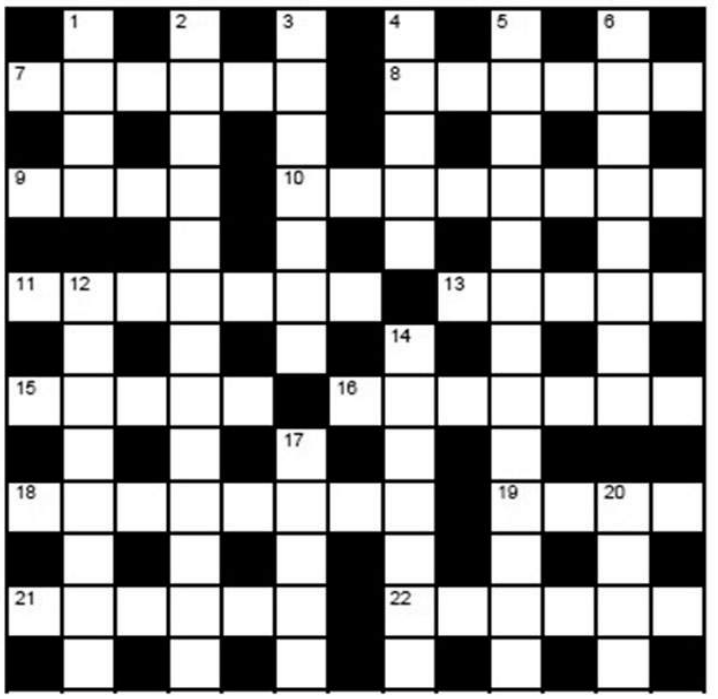

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Ordain. 8 Reason. 9 Worn. 10 Rooftree. 11 Tensile. 13 Melon. 15 Agony. 17 Elision. 20 Overflow. 21 Flaw. 22. Trusty. 23. Riddle.

Down: 1 Groove. 2 Tarn. 3 On a roll. 4 Drool. 5 Waitress. 6 Bolero. 12 Sundress. 14 Blow dry. 16 Govern. 18 Oracle. 19 Clwyd. 21 Fade.

ACROSS

7 Four score (6)
8 Proliferate (6)
9 Move up and down, fluctuate (2-2)
10 On the inside (8)
11 Turn at batting in cricket (7)
13 Customary (5)
15 Baby carriage (5)
16 Retort (7)
18 Rectangular column projecting from a wall (8)
19 Contest that ends all square (4)
21 Person who looks very much like another (6)
22 Papal ambassador (6)

DOWN

1 System of electronic credit transfer between banks, post offices etc (4)
2 Area with targets for controlled firearms practice (8,5)
3 Instrument used to inject or withdraw fluids from the body (7)
4 Belief, trust (5)
5 Comparable (13)
6 Medicinal preparation that is breathed in (8)
12 Inflammation of peripheral nerve or nerves (8)
14 Full of energy, lively (7)
17 Desolate, bare (5)
20 Operatic solo song (4)

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More than half of patients struggle to complain about care

MORE than half of patients in Lancashire struggle making a complaint, according to a report by a health watchdog.

Healthwatch Lancashire, the public voice on health and social care in the county, have released their Feedback and Complaints report which reveals that more than half of the 136 people spoken with found it hard to make a complaint and were not happy with the outcome.

The report studied how easy people find it to share feedback with local services and, if they have made a complaint, how they feel about the process and the outcome they received.

It showed that 55% of those spoken to found it difficult to make a complaint and the same number were unhappy with the outcome due to a lack of information, poor communications and difficulties with the complaints process.

Another 52% said that they felt they needed to complain to a health and social care service in the last 12 months but decided not to. For a quarter of those, the main reason they didn't complain was fear of repercussion, whilst 19% said they didn't know who to speak to.

The report highlights that the majority of complaints related to hospitals, with 47% of those surveyed saying they made a complaint getting no response or action.

A new report has found that half of patients find it hard to complain about their care

In addition, Healthwatch Lancashire has identified a trend of people with mental health concerns not being able to get the support they need through the complaints process. This has been picked up through a large volume of telephone calls the group has received over the past 12 months.

Healthwatch Lancashire chief officer, Sheralee Turner-Birchall , said: "We would like to thank all members of the public who shared their valuable feedback both through our online survey and at our engagement activities at GP practices, hospitals, pharmacies and community group workshops.

"The findings have been shared with those who plan, run and regulate health and social care services within Lancashire including NHS England, clinical commissioning groups, Lancashire County Council and the Care Quality Commission."

The full report 'Sharing your feedback & complaints in Lancashire' is available to read and download from the Healthwatch Lancashire website at www.healthwatchlancashire.co.uk/reports.

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Animal sanctuary's 'buy a bale' plea

Report by **Louisa Austin**

AS temperatures begin to drop volunteers at a West Lancashire animal charity are appealing to the public to help 'bale' them out this winter.

The Woodlands Animal Sanctuary, in Holmeswood desperately needs hay and straw for many of its 'residents' and the amount required increases throughout the colder months.

A spokesperson for the sanctuary said: "The amount of hay and straw we go through in winter is immense. This year we are asking people to support our donkeys, ponies and goats by 'buying a bale'.

"It costs approximately £3,400 annually to provide hay and straw for the animals in our care. Helping to support us in this way over the winter period will free up our already stretched funds to allow us to continue helping more animals that need our care over the upcoming festive period."

For more information or to offer your help call Woodlands on 01704 823293.

Woodlands Animal sanctuary ponies Dolly and Beanie

Heritage group meeting

THE next meeting of the West Lancashire Heritage Association will feature a costume dramalogue entitled 'Margaret Paston - a Medieval Life' performed by Lizzie Jones.

This will be held at Hurlston Hall Golf Club, Scarisbrick on Friday, November 18, starting at 7pm. Tickets for the event, which include light refreshments, are £7 for members, £10 for non-members and can be ordered by calling 01704 821304.

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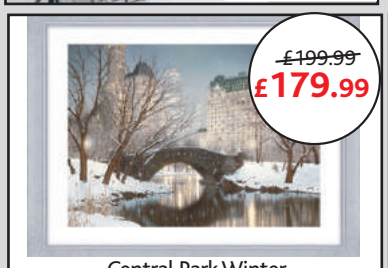

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Council's annual housing report lists achievements

Savings and support for tenants highlighted

MORE than 600 West Lancs Council tenants have moved into new homes in the past year.

That is just one of the 'excellent achievements' highlighted in the authority's latest housing and inclusion service annual housing report.

Others include:

•Installing solar panels in 588 council properties, saving tenants money on their energy bills.

•Saving £500,000 by improving how they work and saving on staff costs.

•Supporting 2,000 tenants by providing rent and money advice.

The annual report also tells tenants how much rent was collected in the course of 2015/16 and how their rent is spent.

Councillor Jenny Patterson

There is information on how many homes received repairs to bathrooms, kitchens and heating and the total amount all the repairs cost.

And other work highlighted includes the management of people's tenancies, including visits to new tenants and inspection of communal areas.

In total the council provides more than 6,000 homes for tenants.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "The housing and inclusion service staff can be very proud of the work they do and this report contains many facts and figures that tenants will be very interested in.

"The service continues to provide excellent value for money through our partnerships and tendering processes by ensuring we get the best quality at the best price."

To view the report go to westlancs.gov.uk/har.

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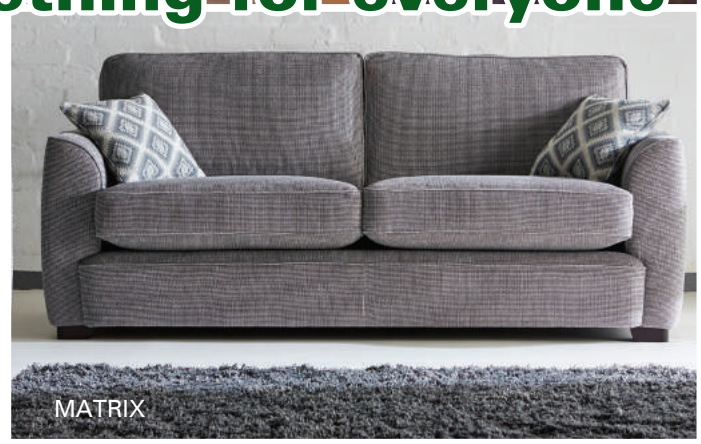

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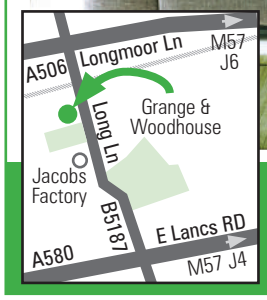

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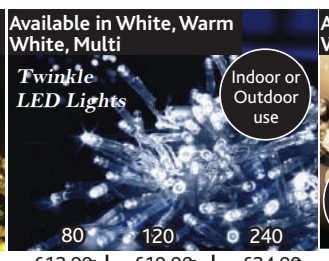

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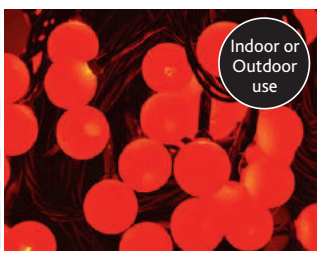

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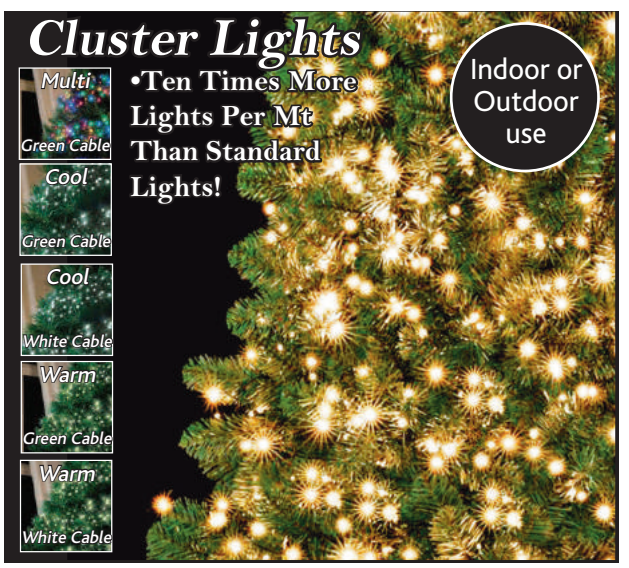

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Care trust's nurse recruitment drive

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Trust is holding a recruitment drive to find new nurses.

The provider offers a range of health and wellbeing services across the county and the surrounding areas and is on the lookout for innovative, hard-working registered general and mental health nurses who are passionate about providing excellent patient care.

Damian Gallagher, director of human resources at the trust, said: "Our staff are absolutely our most valuable asset and we're extremely proud of our nursing workforce.

"We're on the lookout for people who are passionate about providing high quality care and want to come to work to make a difference. If this sounds like something you are interested in please get in touch with us to find out more."

For details go to www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/nurse-recruitment.

County health chiefs support National HIV Testing Week

WEST Lancs residents who are at risk of contracting HIV are being urged to take a test.

Health experts from Lancashire County Council are urging members of the public to take a test during National HIV Testing Week, which begins on Saturday (November 19).

The aim of the week is to help to stop the spread of the infectious, but preventable disease.

Every year between 6,000 and 7,000 people are diagnosed with HIV in England and more than 103,000 people are living with HIV across the country, including 650 in Lancashire.

Information events will be run in West Lancashire on Monday, November 21.

These will be at the Concourse shopping centre, Southway, Skelmersdale from 10am to noon and at Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk from 2 to 4pm.

County Councillor Azhar Ali

County Councillor Azhar Ali, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We're pleased to be supporting National HIV Testing Week in Lancashire.

"A quarter of people with HIV don't know they have it and that's a real problem. If you're concerned at all, this is a great time to get checked out.

"Of course you can book a test at a number of places including your local GP, GUM clinic or sexual health service at any time. You can also order a sample kit to be delivered to your home, so you can take the test there."

Anyone wanting a test can contact the sexual health services in Lancashire on 0300 123 6750, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm or to order a free home test kit, visit www.test.hiv.

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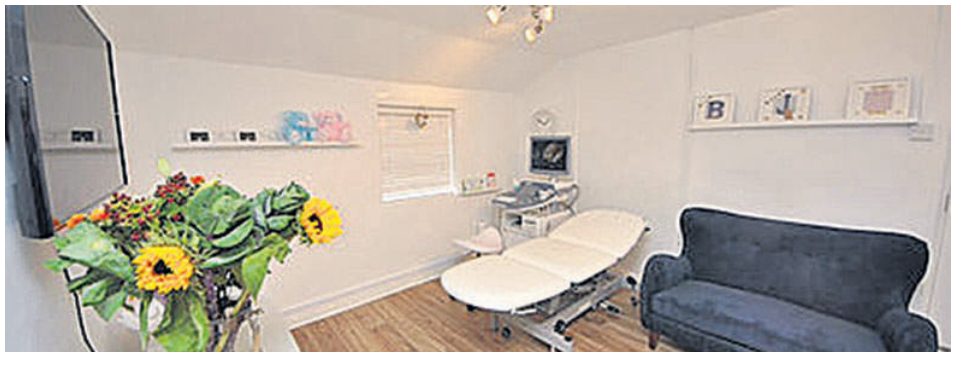
The scans normally take around 15-30 minutes but sometimes baby may need encouragement to move. A stroll around the lovely shops, nearby botanical gardens or even a quick visit to the one of the local tearooms has been known to move the most stubborn of babies.



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Bid to boost charity coffers

VOLUNTEERS at the Children's Society's charity shop in Church Street, Ormskirk are holding a fundraising coffee morning at The Civic in Southport Road on Thursday (November 17).

The event will run from from 10.30am to noon and will feature coffee, tea, toasted tea cakes, cakes and biscuits, as well as stalls and a raffle.

The Children's Society in Lancashire supports children at risk of or affected by sexual exploitation, those who go missing from home and those in care, as well as providing 'early intervention' support for families who need it.

Charity shop manager, Heather Jones, said: "We can't wait for our coffee morning in the grand surroundings of The Civic. It's a chance for our staff and volunteers to take a step back from their hard work and have a chat over a cuppa with both regular customers and anyone else interested in finding out more about what we do.

"It's also a great cause which will help to raise vital funds for The Children's Society's work supporting some really vulnerable children."

Tickets for the coffee morning cost £2.50 and are available from the shop in advance or on the door.

● *THE Aughton fundraising branch of North West Cancer Research are hosting a Christmas coffee morning from 10am to noon on Tuesday, November, 22 at the Women's Institute Hut, Town Green Lane.*

Entrance costs £2, which includes tea or coffee and a mince pie, and there will be stalls selling homemade cakes, handmade charity Christmas cards, books, jewellery and small Christmas gifts.

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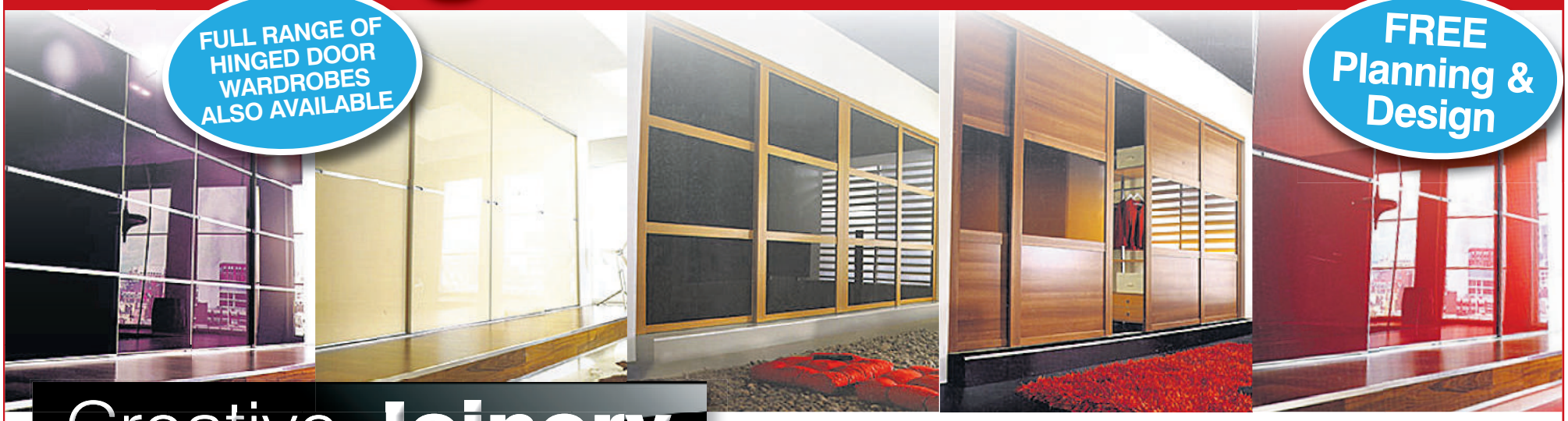

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County revealed as a 'loneliness hot spot' by older folks charity

Helpline has received more than 38,000 calls from Lancashire since launch three years ago

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The Silver Line's founder, Dame Esther Rantzen

LANCASHIRE has been named as a 'loneliness hot spot' by a charity for older people.

Staff at the Silver Line Helpline, a charity for isolated pensioners based in Blackpool looked at data from more than a million calls that its helpline received since national launch in November 2013, to pinpoint the areas where most of their calls come from across England.

They found that 38,450 calls were made from Lancashire, the highest amount for any areas. In Lancashire, two thirds of the calls were made during the night or weekends.

The Silver Line is the only free, national, confidential helpline open every day and night, offering information, friendship and advice to older people. Two-thirds of calls are made at night-times and weekends - over 700,000 of the calls received by the helpline so far.

As well as the helpline, the charity has 3,000 volunteers who make regular friendship calls, or exchange letters with older people. The charity also makes a further 2,500 'keeping in touch' calls every week to isolated older people.

The Silver Line's founder, Dame Esther Rantzen, said: "Every day we hear from lonely older people who have led interesting lives but are now isolated, utterly alone and literally have no one to speak to for days on end.

"Calls come from virtually everywhere in the UK – places as different as the rural north of Lancashire and urban Burnley – but alike in that older people are experiencing the same loneliness. Our figures show there are lonely older people living in every street, in every community and we know that for many night-times are the worst for them. That's why it is vital we are there when no other helpline is available for older people who may be lonely, isolated or confused."

The Silver Line relies entirely on donations to keep the helpline going and pay for friendship calls between volunteer Silver Line Friends and older people.

The growing demand from lonely older people means The Silver Line now needs to raise £1.65 million to pay for the night-time and weekends service. It fears that without more public donations the vital service may have to close. For more information visit thesilverline.org.uk.

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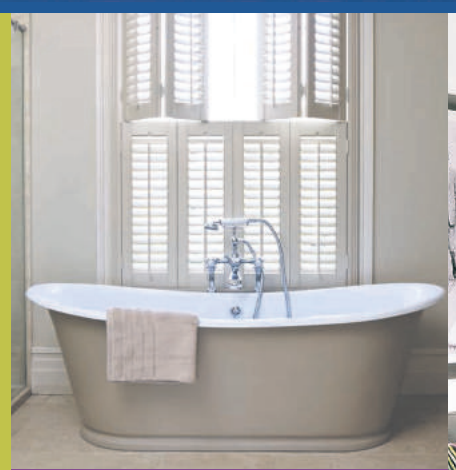

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Survey finds borough care home staff face problems gaining access to dental services for residents

Report by **Henry James**

CARE home staff in West Lancashire have the most difficulty in the county in gaining access to dental care services for their residents.

That is according to the results of a Healthwatch Lancashire report into dental care services, which has revealed that more than half of 62 care homes in the county said they had difficulties accessing dental services with those with poor mobility or dementia most at risk.

A total of 14 care homes took part in West Lancashire - Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Burscough; Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Skelmersdale; Aaron Crest Care Home; Beacon View Home for Older People; The Spinney Nursing Home; Abbey Wood Lodge Care Home; Springfield Court Nursing Home; Asmall Hall Care Home; Aughton Park Care Home; Silver Birch Lodge; Lindsay House; Willow Lodge; Courtfield Lodge; and Arranmore Park Care Home.

The survey showed that when employees in the borough were asked if they had experienced difficulties on gaining access to dental services 79 per cent said they had. The lowest in the county was in Fylde and Wyre where only 10 per cent had experienced issues.

Responses from employees in West Lancashire included: "There are massive issues in this area"; "Reasonably timed appointments are difficult to get; dentists usually want to make an appointment at a time that doesn't suit"; "90% of the time we have difficulty getting dental services for residents. There is only one dentists who works in the area and they cancel appointments. Sometimes it can be up to six weeks wait for an appointment."

Sheralee Turner-Birchall, chief officer of Healthwatch Lancashire, said: "We were able to respond to feedback we gathered from care home staff across Lancashire to highlight difficulties residents are experiencing when accessing services.

Sheralee Turner-Birchall, chief officer at Healthwatch Lancashire

"I would like to thank NHS England for considering the findings from this project and for providing a response to our report."

Jackie Forshaw, head of primary care, NHS England, Lancashire, commented: "We welcome the results of the study and it's good to see that overall 86% of care home representatives said that they feel their residents have access to effective dental care.

"The study has enabled us to take a closer look at this group of patients and what we can do to further improve services for them.

"The local dental network is now working on a number of new initiatives to widen access for patients, including a focus on facilitated access for the elderly and supporting care homes across Lancashire in relation to oral health for residents."

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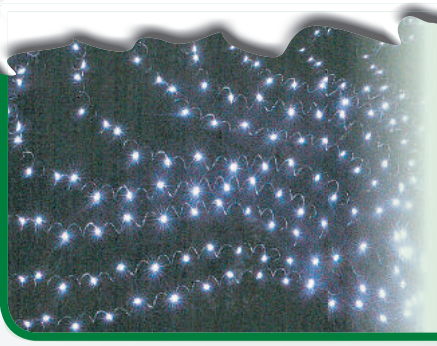

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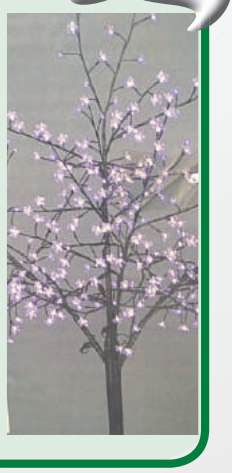

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Borough quartet commended in county tourism awards

FOUR businesses from West Lancashire were commended after reaching the finals of the 2016 Lancashire Tourism Awards.

Marketing Lancashire, the county's destination management organisation, revealed the winners of the awards, which are now in their 13th year, at an awards ceremony at Blackburn Cathedral last week.

Hundreds of entrants take part in the awards each year, which are then whittled down to short-lists of up to six finalists in 16 separate categories.

This year's runners-up who reached the finals from across the borough include the Swan Spectacular at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre in Burscough in the Visitor Experience Award category; Infusions Cafe Bistro, Burscough in the Taste Lancashire Award round; the West Tower exclusive wedding venue, Ormskirk in the Wedding Venue Award category; and the Artisan Foodworks, Burscough in the Lancashire Producers and Makes Award section.

Ruth Connor from Marketing Lancashire said: "The Awards are all about Lancashire's amazing tourism businesses, experiences and of course our people; they are about celebrating and recognising the quality that we have in our tourism industry that attracts over 64million people to the county."

New vicar takes up dual role at West Lancs parishes

CHRIST Church in Parbold and All Saints Church in Appley Bridge have a new vicar.

The Reverend Sue Timmins has moved from Manchester to take on the dual role in West Lancashire.

The 52-year-old was officially welcomed to her new parishes on Sunday (November 13) at Christ Church by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Reverend Julian Henderson, and the Archdeacon of Blackburn, the Venerable Mark Ireland.

Following the service in front of a huge congregation from both churches, a reception was held at All Saints School in Appley Bridge.

Sue, who was born in Manchester, was a civil engineer before being ordained when she was 30, training for the priesthood at St John's Nottingham before becoming a curate in Buckinghamshire.

She was a vicar at Pendlebury in Manchester for 15 years until July 2015 when she spent five months volunteering with a Christian organisation in Nigeria.

Since returning to England at the end of 2015 she has continued voluntary work with the same organisation in Europe and ministering to churches in Manchester that were between parish priests.

She said: "We have a strong focus in our Diocesan Vision 2026 to make disciples, to witness and to grow leaders for Jesus Christ, and I am looking forward to seeing how God will lead us on together in our own part of that journey."

Reverend Sue Timmins after the service of induction with the Bishop of Blackburn (right) and the Archdeacon of Blackburn at Christ Church in Parbold

CONGRATULATIONS
to the winners of the TJ Hughes Competition:

Michelle Millington, Skelmersdale

Mrs Lynn Rees, Bootle

Rosie Gaines, Southport

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Members of the Burscough Methodist Players celebrate raising funds for Ormskirk Hospital's Neonatal Unit

Drama group hit the high notes for worthy causes

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of a local drama group hit the high notes at the double when they raised more than £2,000 for two local good causes.

Around 40 members of the Burscough Methodist Players performed songs from American rock superstar Bruce Springsteen's iconic 'Born in the USA' album at two shows to raise funds for Ormskirk Hospital Neonatal Uunit and for the church in Orrell Road, Burscough.

The first performance, staged in front of 140 guests at The Stanley Institute in Liverpool Road North, raised £1,373.89 for the neonatal unit.

And the second, held at Burscough Methodist Church in front of 80 guests, raised £700 for the church itself.

Karen Wareing, who is a member of Burscough Methodist Players, as well as the manager of the neonatal unit, received the cheque on behalf of the hospital.

Lesley Wilde from Burscough Methodist Players said: "Everyone worked so hard from June onward practising weekly. It was extremely hard work but everyone agreed it was well worth it.

"The tickets sold out within weeks and both shows were sell-outs so 220 people were treated to brilliant evenings of dancing and singing with coffee, tea, Coca-Cola, chocolate brownies, muffins, popcorn, jelly beans and American hard gums!

"We raised the funds through ticket sales, raffles and an auction."

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400

Boutique to host Children in Need fundraiser event

STAFF at an Ormskirk boutique are hosting a fundraising event for Children in Need on Friday (November 18).

Helen Suarez from Hello Baby Boutique in Burscough Street has organised the event which will run from 10am to 4pm and will include free treats, a free raffle for children and the chance to win a £20 voucher.

She will also be donating a percentage of sales on the day to Children in Need, the BBC's charity for disabled children and young people in the UK.

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A Magical Christmas at the Chapel Gallery

Images: Lempen Puppets & Emily Thatcher, Rings

Visit the Chapel Gallery this Christmas and discover a host of free events, activities and markets.

West Lancashire Borough Council's public art gallery launches its Christmas programme on Friday 25th November, the same date as the Ormskirk Christmas Lights Switch-On, with a free festive market, family activities, caricatures and complementary mulled-wine (Age 18+, one per person while stocks last). This is the first Market of a 3-day event, with great stalls, free puppet shows and calligraphy demos with make your own bunting sessions across Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November too.

Enter the Winter Tales exhibition to find an enchanted forest with woodland creatures, and a variety of original prints, paintings and three-dimensional works.

The Chapel Gallery shop offers a wide range of jewellery, homeware, prints and decorations by the very best UK based designer/makers, and the Café's Christmas Menu is full of warming, winter fare.

Other highlights in the Chapel Gallery Christmas Events Programme, include a visit from the legendary Lempen Puppets. The am-A-zing Thing will take place on Saturday 17th December, at 11am and 2.30pm. This is an imaginative journey through some well-known Grimm stories with puppets, acting and live music.

Tickets £4.00/£15.00 Family Ticket. (2 Adults & 2 Children or 1 Adult & 3 Children) Performance suitable for children aged 5+. Places are limited, please contact the Gallery to book.

For a full programme of Chapel Gallery Christmas Events & Activities, contact the gallery: 01695 571327, chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk or www.chapelgallery.org.uk

Have a Magical Christmas...

A Free weekend of Great Stalls, Free Entertainment and a Festive Atmosphere at the Chapel Gallery.

Ormskirk Christmas Lights Switch-On Market

Fri 25 November: 12-8pm.
Special Event: 6-8pm

Plus: Free Caricatures*, Family Activities and Complementary Mulled-Wine. 6-8pm**

Makers' Market, Art & Craft

Sat 26 November: 10am-4pm

Plus: Free Family Activities, Make your own Christmas Decorations and Bunting Demonstrations throughout the day.

Vintage & Handmade Market

Sun 27 November: 10am-4pm

Plus: Free Punch & Judy Shows at 11am, 12:30pm & 3pm, and Calligraphy Demonstrations all day.

**Free caricatures with Mike Bryson.*

Contact the Gallery for the full Christmas Programme of Events & Activities.

**Over 18, one per person, while stocks last.

Chapel Gallery, St. Helen's Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 4QR
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Liliana Gonzalez (2nd right, back row) with trainers and members of Burscough Diving Club

Pension company's cash boost for young divers

YOUNG divers from across West Lancashire are set to benefit from a generous donation to their club - thanks to a family connection.

Liverpool-based pension services provider, MyCSP, donated £200 to Burscough Diving Club whose members include the young daughter of the company's employee partner, Liliana Gonzalez.

The welcome boost, donated from the MyCSP Community Fund, will be used by the club to buy more new equipment.

The club trains in Burscough and Skelmersdale each week and runs competitive and recreational programmes all year round with a number of team members often making it to national level competitions.

Liliana Gonzalez, whose six-year-old daughter Savanna is a keen member of the diving club, said: "The club provides a professional and fun opportunity for children to get involved in this fantastic sport. They're all hard-working dedicated children and love what they do.

"The confidence it builds and the friendships they make are worth it on their own - their diving success is an added bonus!"

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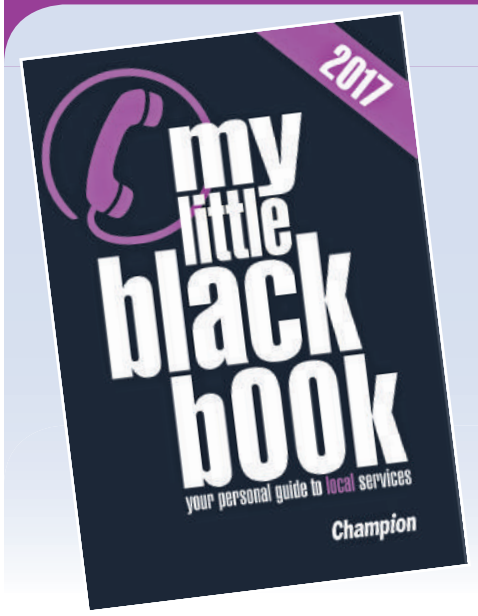

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Borough remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Paying their respects... members of the armed forces, veterans and civic dignitaries at the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at Ormskirk St Anne's Church war memorial

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and her consort Councillor Noel Delaney chat to veterans after last Friday's service in Ormskirk town centre to mark Armistice Day

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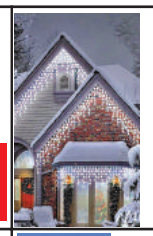

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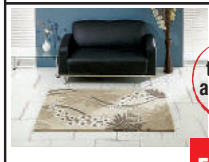

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Design apron for dame

THE Southport Dramatic Club is launching a competition for its family pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

They are inviting local children aged 14 or under to submit their designs for an apron to be worn by Dame Ophelia Beetroot during the show.

The winner will also win a family ticket for the Panto (two adults and up to two children) for the matinee performance on January 1 2017, and the chance to meet Jack, Alice and the rest of the cast after the show.

This is a new version of the classic family favourite with a whole host of wonderful characters including the hero, Jack, and the love of his life Alice, the bumbling Squire Fitzloosely and his Hench-men Barmpot & Bailey, a far-away Giant, Spider-like Witches, street-wise fairies and the cow. From beanstalks to the Giant's castle in the sky, the SDC can't wait to see your colourful designs.

The rules of the competition are: All entrants must be 14 years old or under as at December 16 2016; Designs should be in colour and can be either drawn by hand or designed on computer; Designs must be submitted on A4 paper (preferably not folded), and drawn in portfolio dimension; and The Judge's decision is final.

John Delahunty as Tickles and Paul Wilkinson as Dame Ammonia in the 2015 SDC's production of Sleeping Beauty

Designs should be sent to Jack and the Beanstalk Competition, Little Theatre, Hoghton Street, Southport, PR9 0PA by 11am on Monday, November 28, and include their name, address, date of birth, contact telephone number and email address. The winning entrant will be contacted by December 5.

Invitation to beat winter blues and visit gallery

RESIDENTS are being invited to beat the winter blues and come along to the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk to enjoy its latest event.

Visitors can see Alice return from her Wonderland, Jack scramble down his beanstalk, and see Shakespearean fairies emerge from their forests at the Winter Tales exhibition.

This event opens this Saturday (November 19) at the West Lancashire Borough Council run-gallery with free family friendly activities, including how to make a snowy landscape.

Throughout the winter months visitors are invited to explore this exhibition, discovering an array of artworks that will fascinate and delight. The exhibition runs until Saturday, January 21.

This is an exhibition inspired by storytelling: enchanting fables, exotic tales and personal narratives. Exhibiting Artists are Jac Balmer, Mychael Barratt, Mary Campbell, Val Jackson, Shirlee McGuire, Judy Musselle, Ruth Packham, Gill Smith, Steve Talbot, Mark Uttley and Louise Wood.

The annual Objects of Desire exhibition starts today (Wednesday, November 16) and offers visitors the chance to pick up a Christmas gift from a selection of some of the best contemporary craft in the UK. Items on sale include: glassware, ceramics, jewellery, limited edition prints, textiles and accessories. There's nothing mass produced in this showcase, which runs until Saturday, January 21, as everything is lovingly created by the maker.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Don't miss these great events at the Chapel Gallery which will really help brighten up the coming winter months."

Mary Campbell's A Khan Dreamt of Frozen Lands.

Chance to see biggest touring burlesque show

THE producers of the UK's biggest touring burlesque show – An Evening of Burlesque – bring the traditional art form up to date with an all-new theatre show coming to the Southport theatre this Thursday (November 17) at 8pm.

Fifty Shades of Burlesque promises to take burlesque "to the next, spine-tingling level."

The show's producer Michael Taylor said: "Now it's time to take all of burlesque's elements – elegance, classic beauty, couture costumes and exotic themes, and bring it well and truly into the 21st Century."

Michael describes 50 Shades of Burlesque as "vaudeville gone volatile.

"Burlesque all-stars drawn from across the world appear as never seen before.

"It's the hottest, most provocative extravaganza ever to grace the stage."

The show is strictly over-18s only and not for the easily offended. There is a prize for the most outrageously-dressed member of the audience.

The show is hosted by Polly Rae. Polly Rae is a burlesque superstar, chanteuse, teacher and producer renowned for her unique style.

She is famed for bringing Burlesque to London's West End in The Hurly Burly Show with William Bakker (Kylie Minogue, Britney Spears, Rhianna) and The Soho Burlesque Club in London's Hippodrome.

Spain's number one pianist visiting Parbold

DOUGLAS Music is to present a concert by international pianist, Javier Perianes, acknowledged as Spain's No. 1 concert pianist, this Saturday (November 19) at 7.45 pm in the Arena Auditorium, Parbold Village Hall.

Javier was awarded the National Music Prize in 2012 by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, and his flourishing international career already spans five continents with world-famous orchestras in some of the most prestigious venues on every continent.

He arrives in Parbold after a month-long tour of North and South America.

His performances have been praised as 'unforgettable' for their 'refined taste', while his playing displays rare 'modesty and utter brilliance' and 'a fearlessness and brilliance that erases all other performances'.

Javier Perianes

Javier's Parbold concert includes Schubert's much-loved final sonata, a work acknowledged as one of the great masterpieces for piano, with great contrasting melodies and drama.

Javier is about to record this work for Harmonia Mundi. As well as more works by Schubert and Debussy, Javier includes a piece by Spanish composer, Manuel De Falla, which evokes their homeland's province of Andalusia. This virtuoso work was originally written for the piano legend, Anton Rubenstein.

In partnership with West Lancs Dial-a-Ride, Douglas Music has set up a Ticket and Ride scheme. Douglas Music has partnered with West Lancashire's Dial a Ride to offer a subsidised mini-bus service to and from its concerts for members of the audience who would love to come to the events but who cannot use public transport or for whom it is not available at the time of the concerts and do not have regular use of a car.

The cost of a return journey from pick-up point to the Parbold concerts and back will be £4 in addition to the cost of the ticket.

To book Ticket and Ride, first book your concert ticket at Douglas Music's Box Office and then contact Dial a Ride. Telephone 01704 893373 between 9am, and 2pm weekdays or leave a message to reserve a seat on the bus and to make the pick up and drop-off arrangements.

As part of Douglas Music's commitment to the NW community it has maintained its admission price for students/young persons at £5 for any concert.

Douglas Music is supported by the Arts Council, England, Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council.

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CANE SUITE large sofa, 2 chairs £60. 01704 231225

SOFA BED guest, immaculate, used twice, single size £80. buyer collects. 0151 286 6896

CHRISTMAS TREE artificial 5ft, free decorations £12. Dinner plates, pink rose pattern, gold rimmed £1.25 each. 01704 531694

BEECH TABLE with black granite insets and 6 high back chairs, black leather seats, vgc, ex stokers £100. 07710 448292

TABLETOP OVEN with grill and rotisserie, never been used £40. 01704 538452

COFFEE AND LAMP tables, italian, , almost new from stokers, was £950 accept £250. 01704 545500 or 07866 048547

DEEP FAT FRYER modern, white, Swan used twice £10. wicker chairs, small x 2, nearly new £10 each. 0151 284 9148

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GLASS BOWLS 6 cut glass bowls 1 large bowl trifle punch 4 smaller no chips bootle £5 01512870112

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MISC

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MISC

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought. 01704 566210 after 6pm

PA SYSTEM 12 Channel mixer, EQ and effects processor with protection limiter, Mini and CD players, speakers 2 flight cases, 1000watts £695 01704579867

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SMALL WASHBASIN White Twfords wall mounted basin (45w 38d) with gold finish classic taps and waste. Really nice condition. £30 01772816637

THOMAS KINKADE Winter festival musical LED Christmas carnival sky swing decoration 13inch tall. plays 8 Christmas carols. cost £100 will accept £70 01514741840

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MOBILITY SCOOTER shop rider £160. 0151 476 1742

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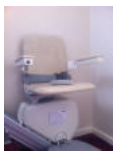

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BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

MOON JOHN STUART
15th November

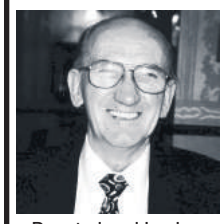
His nature was loving and giving, His heart was made of pure gold, And to us who truly loved him, His memory will never grow old.
Loved and remembered always, especially on your birthday.
Wife Jean, Daughter Deborah, Grandchildren Jasmine and Elliot.
xxxx

DEATHS

EILEEN LECK
29th October 2016
aged 88 years
Peacefully at home in Skelmersdale

Eileen's funeral will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 17th November at 2.00pm.Enquiries to Cookson Tyrer, Burscough.01704 897770.Family flowers only please.Donations to Dementia UK if desired.

BRENNAN JOSEPH
Died Peacefully in Hospital surrounded by family on the 3rd November 2016
Aged 84 years



Devoted and Loving Husband of Mary

Loving Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather who will be sadly missed

Funeral to be held at Wigan Crematorium on the 22nd November at 1pm
For further details please contact Banks of Orrell 01695622272

DEATHS

MAGEE ROBERT EDWARDS (BOB)
13th November 2016
Peacefully in hospital surrounded by his loving family aged 86 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of Enid and devoted Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral service on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 10.45am at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Alzheimer's Society, The British Heart Foundation or a charity of the donors choice. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

LATTIMER BETTY (Elizabeth)
6th November 2016
Aged 97 years

Devoted Wife of the late Ted (Edward), much loved Mother to Edward, loving Granny to Laura, Ellie and George. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 17th November at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Queenscourt at Home. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

HOWARD FRIEDA
1st November 2016
Aged 103 Years

Devoted Wife of the late Jack, much loved Mum of Peter and Daughter in law Anne, loving Grandma of Paul and Nik, Great Grandmother of Ellie, Jack, Skye and Eden, cherished Auntie to Hazel. Frieda will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Churchtown on Friday 18th November at 12:00pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Connell Court Amenity Fund. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

SWARBRICK MARGUERITE MAY
7th November 2016
Aged 80 years

Loving Wife of George. Devoted Mum to Gill & John and David & Judith, Cherished Grandma to Andrew, Mark, Scott and Leah, and Great Grandma to Jamie and Olivia. Marguerite passed away peacefully following a short illness. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Family flowers only by request but donations in memory of Marguerite and being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 18th November at 1.00pm. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

GARSIDE MARJORIE
10th November 2016
Aged 94 years

Loving Mother to Gillian and Philip, Granny to Katy, Fiona, Mark and Ben, Great Granny to Jamie, Daniel, Evie Lila and Elena.
Family flowers only by request.
Funeral service will take place at Emmanuel Church, Ormskirk on Friday 28th November at 11.30am.
All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY
Tel: 01695 572997

HOULGRAVE COLIN
Peacefully on 10th November 2016
Aged 77 years

Loving and devoted Husband of Eileen. Much loved Uncle of Pamela and Stuart, and true friend to John. Funeral Service at St. Cuthberts Church, Halsall on Monday 21st November 2016 at 10.30am followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers please by request, but donations if so desired for St Cuthberts PCC. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

BURDEKIN CHRISTOPHER
3rd November 2016
Aged 77 years

Loving Dad of Owen, Nicholas, David and Rachel. Proud Granddad of Julian, Adrian, Eliza and Samuel. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on 17th November at 10:45. No flowers please but if desired, donations are being gratefully received for the Palliative Care Charity Fund at Southport Hospital. Donations and enquiries to R. Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd., Halliwell House, 758/768 Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8BB. Tel: 01942 222156.

IN MEMORIAM

KENYON B.E.M CLIFFORD
18th November 2015

Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.
Love from Wife Myra, Son Christopher, Daughter Lorna and All The Family. xxx

HALSALL ANNE
11.11.2009

MUM
Things we feel most deeply, are the hardest things to say.
Dearest Mum, we loved you, in a very special way.
If we could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true.
We'd pray to God with all our hearts, for yesterday and you.
Love and miss you
Mum
Donna, Suzanne, John and Stephen

ANNE
My heart is heavy with sadness and tears, and always will be.
"Arthur's Irish Rose"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRANK QUAYLE

Margaret and family wish to thank all our relatives,friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy through their cards and generous donations for the coronary care unit at Southport Hospital. Special thanks to Doctors and staff at Hall Green Surgery and all staff at Stocks Hall Homecare and Nursing Home Skelmersdale for their loving care and kindness for Frank and all the Family. Also to Peter Giles for is Eulogy which truly celebrated Franks life and everyone at Skelmersdale Funeral Services for their dignified handling of the funeral arrangements and treating Frank with true kindness and compassion whilst supporting the family through their grief.

To book your FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS call 01704 392 392 adverts.champnews.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a New Premises Licence

NAME OF APPLICANT:
Co-operative Group Food Limited
ADDRESS OF PREMISES:
Co-op, (former Ropers Arms Public House), 52 Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU (New Build)
The licensable activities will be for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises between Monday-Sunday 06:00-23:00. Conditions will apply.
Anyone wishing to make a representation to this application may do so by 7 December 2016.
A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority will be kept on a register at the address given below and the register may be inspected during normal office hours.
All representations regarding this application MUST BE IN WRITING and sent to: West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Service, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire, WN8 8EE or www.westlancs.gov.uk
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and is subject to a maximum fine of £5000 on summary conviction for the offence.

WARD HADAWAY

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(A506 LIVERPOOL ROAD, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1.No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of A506 Liverpool Road, from a point 40 metres south west of the property known as "Oakdene Cottage" to a point 150 metres south west of the property known as "Smithy Cottage" in the borough of West Lancashire.

2.The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Thursday 24th November 2016 until 1700 hours to Friday 23rd December 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.

3.An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows; A506 Liverpool Road - Long Lane - Parrs Lane - B5197 Prescot Road - A506 Liverpool Road and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential new water main construction works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT16/08/5398/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
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OLD SKELMERSDALE
- *Round includes:* Blaguegate Ln, Bromilow Rd, Firswood Rd, Taylor St, Dickets Ln, Ormskirk Rd, Hollands Ln
- *Round includes:* Woodrow, High St (part), Whitestocks, Woodcroft, Wolverton
- *Round includes:* Windrows, Wigan Rd, Windgate

UPHOLLAND
- *Round includes:* Alma Walk, Alma Hill, Brookfield Rd, Douglas Ave, Hall Green, Hall Green Cl, Tower Hill Rd

ORMSKIRK/AUGHTON/BURSCOUGH
- *Round includes:* Liverpool Rd South (part), Lordsgate Dr, Clayton House Gdns
- *Round includes:* Churchfields, Church St, Park Rd, Aughton St (part), Derby St West (part), Church Walks, The Stiles
- *Round includes:* Grammar School Gardens, Grammar School Court, Pinfold Rd, Merchant Rd, Mulbery Cl, Silk Court, Warpers Way, Spinner Mews
- *Round includes:* Halsall Ln, Lasall Ct, Cottage Ln (part), Church Hill Rd, The Reeds, The Avenue
- *Round includes:* Liverpool Road North, Orrell Ln, Victoria St, Mart Ln, Orrell Mews, Peets Mill

HOLMESWOOD
- *Round includes:* Holmeswood Rd, Smithy Ln

RUFFORD
- *Round includes:* Beech Cl, Liverpool Rd, Thornton Cl, Station Rd, Manor House Cl, Church Cl, Diamond Jubilee Rd, Douglas Cl
- *Round includes:* Brick Kiln Ln, The Hawthornes, Hesketh Gn, New Rd, Willow Gn, Oasis Cl

SCARISBRICK
- *Round includes:* Southport Rd (part), Bescar Brow Ln, Bullens Ln, Jacksmere Ln

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(LAFFORD LANE, UP HOLLAND, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1.No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Lafford Lane, from a point outside the entrance to Holland Hall Hotel to a point outside the entrance to Dean Wood Golf Course in the borough of West Lancashire.

2.The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1600 hours on Monday November 2016 to Friday 9th December 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.

3.An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows; Lafford Lane - A577 Grove Road - College Road - Stoney Brow - School Lane - Lafford Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential drainage and highway maintenance works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT16/08/5415/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(DARK LANE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Dark Lane, Ormskirk, for a distance of 25 metres either side of a point outside of the property known as "The Cottage" in the borough of West Lancashire.

2. The prohibition will be operative from 1700 hours on Friday 18th November 2016 until 1700 hours on Friday 9th December 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:
i. Dark Lane - Blythe Lane - Hob Cross Lane - B5240 Hall Lane - A5209 Briars Lane - A5209 Square Lane - A59 Liverpool Road South- A59 High Lane - B5319 Burscough Road - A570 Derby Street - Derby Street - Greetby Hill - Dark Lane
ii. Dark Lane - Greetby Hill - Derby Street - A570 Stanley Street - A577 Moor Street - A577 St Helens Road - A570 Park Road - A570 Church Street - A570 Derby Street West - B5319 Burscough Road - A59 High Lane - A59 Liverpool Road South - A5209 Square Lane - A5209 Briars Lane - B5240 Hall Lane - Hob Cross Lane - Blythe Lane - Dark Lane

The temporary closure is necessary to enable essential new water main construction works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref-HRiT/16/8/5701/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(COBBS BROW LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) (No.2) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh from its junction with Beacon Lane to its junction with Tabbys Nook in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for all traffic affected by the closure is as follows:
Beacon Lane - Higher Lane - A5209 Ash Brow - Cobbs Brow Lane and vice versa

The temporary closure is necessary to enable essential highway maintenance works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Wednesday 23rd November 2016, and Thursday 24th November 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/16/8/5606/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

QUEENSCOURT *2000* DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Dodworth Avenue, Southport
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Winners of £20 are as follows:

18187	134226
19180	24770
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23028	21540
27015	28537
175549	361385
191901	26638
362804	12034
13016	19682
29228	18287

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(STATION ROAD, HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Station Road, from its junction with Shore Road to its junction with Chapel Road, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Friday 25th November 2016 until Wednesday 30th November 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Shore Road - Chapel Road - and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential highways maintenance works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/16/08/5495/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(REDGATE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over the whole length of Redgate, Ormskirk;

2. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0700 hours and 1700 hours on Monday 21st November 2016 and Tuesday 22nd November 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Cottage Lane and Vice Versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential highway maintenance works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/16/08/5607/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0863/FUL Connect the building as one, creating passageway from the existing accommodation through to the existing garage space. Convert part of the ground floor garage into living accommodation to include a kitchen area. Convert the area above the garage into living accommodation to include an additional two bedrooms, bathroom and en-suite. Create single storey extension to connect the existing living accommodation with the proposed new layout. New extension to include siting room/dining room. New vehicular/pedestrian access to include shared access to No. 30 Parliament Street at 32A Parliament Street, Up Holland.
Application No: 2016/1061/FUL Conversion of a group of three barns to dwelling including a single storey link extension and a two storey link extension at Ormeshaws Farm, 12 Harridge Lane, Scarisbrick.
Application No: 2016/1130/LBC Listed Building Consent - Conversion of group of three barns into a dwelling including single storey rear link extension and two storey rear link extension at Ormeshaws Farm, 12 Harridge Lane, Scarisbrick.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 16th November 2016
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT923

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Closing date for completed applications: Noon on 25th November 2016

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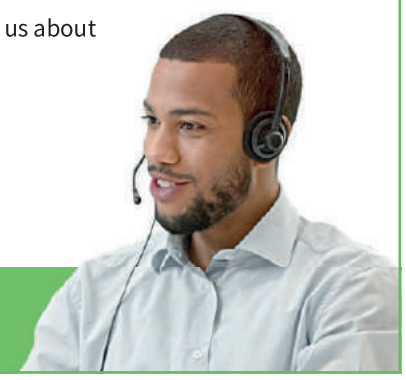

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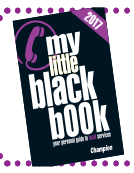

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Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
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NORMALLY I emerge from the NEC searching for my next classic car, but this year it was lozenges and a comfier pair of shoes.

The amount of walking and talking reflects how vast the Classic Motor Show has become, and why car nuts from right across the North West are prepared to drive two hours to see it.

Think 2,500 old cars stretched out over five enormous halls, the chance to meet the celebs of the motoring world and stand after stand offering parts for sale, technical advice and swish gadgets to accompany you on your next drive. Here in the UK there's nothing quite like our annual NEC bash.

You'd think that going to a show that's roughly the same every year for the best part of a decade would mean I'd have seen it all by now, but each visit always chucks up cars I didn't even know existed.

How about a Volvo P18000S convertible, a ragtop version of Ford's Cortina Lotus, a Bond Bug in white rather than the ubiquitous orange, or a stretch limo made from, erm, a Skoda Estelle? My particular favourite this year was the rather poshly named Rover 90 Drop Head Coupé by Mulliner Park Ward – essentially a P4 turned into a stylish convertible by Pininfarina and then coachbuilt by the people behind a generation of Rolls-Royces. Only two were ever made, and one of them was there this year.

I'll even put up with rubbish food, the eye-watering £12 a day to park, and the misery of queuing on the M42 because there is nowhere quite like the NEC show for taking the pulse of Britain's love of old cars and discovering that it's very much alive and well.

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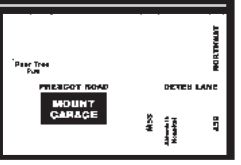

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Struggling Linnets hit for four

Mossley 4
Burscough 0

BURSCOUGH conceded four against a team who hadn't won a league match at home since April.

The Linnets, sat bottom of the table, were hoping to make up some ground on the sides above them and fellow strugglers Mossley provided a chance to put some much-needed points on the board.

But the home side got off to a flying start and never looked back after they took a sixth-minute lead. A long ball upfield by Liam Flynn was controlled by Dave Short who out-foxed his marker before calmly slotting home.

More chances followed. Jordan Bove was denied by Burscough keeper Marcus Burgess and Jason Hill saw his deflected shot hit the bar before Mossley doubled their advantage on 32 minutes as Matty Burke pounced from 10 yards after Burgess had blocked Mike Fish's effort.

Damase Kiwanda had a great chance to make it 3-0 but his shot was blocked on the line.

Burscough had their first effort on target early in the second half when Denis Sherrif's shot popped up in front of Flynn who somehow managed to turn the ball over the bar for a corner.

Burscough struggling to cope with the Mossley forwards

However, Mossley stretched the lead on 55 minutes. Kiwanda picked up the ball on the halfway line and powerfully raced past two defenders before crossing low and hard for Jordan Bove to turn home at the near post.

Tom Fisher, making his first appearance since being injured in pre-season, set up fellow sub Mason Duffy for a close range finish to make it four.

Mossley dominated through to the finish and Fisher came close to making it five but his effort was well saved by Burgess.

Club to host BTEC course for young footballers

SKELMERSDALE United will team up with Coaching Connexions to host a BTEC Level 3 Programme for September 2017.

The partnership will offer boys aged 16 to 19 a full-time, football--based course a The Uretek Stadium.

The programme will further enhance the club's youth structure going forward and will enable a pathway for gifted footballers into the first team.

James Quinn, director of Coaching Connexions, said: "e are joining Skelmersdale United from September but the course we are offering has already been tried and tested with AFC Telford United and Chorley.

"The partnership with AFC Telford has been very exciting, looking back I am very proud at how much we have achieved.

"Highlights from the first year include one player gaining a first team contract and four of the scholarship students being called up to the first team.

"Further, there have been two international football tours to Spain and Holland. This has culminated in all the students gaining valuable work experience with the club and making outstanding academic progress.

"The whole of West Lancashire will benefit from our previous experiences, especially as it will be on their doorstep."

Skelmersdale United FC are holding a trials night at their Uretek Stadium on Thursday, November 24 from 6pm. It is open to any aspiring footballer or any boy of a decent football ability that wants to acquire sports-based skills to take into their future working life.

To book a place on the trial visit www.coachingconnexions.co.uk or call 07879 994 718.

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New arrivals put Skem back to winning ways

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 2
Ilkeston 1

SKELMERSDALE United got revenge for last month's defeat away at Ilkeston by beating them at home.

Manager Tommy Lawson has signed five new players in the last 10 days and the difference it has made to the team is tangible.

Skelmersdale had pushed the Derbyshire-based side from the off and in the opening 14 minutes went close three times.

Visiting goalkeeper Ross Durrant saved low down to his right from Hazeldine and Luke Wall hit the post with a looping ball into the goalmouth before new signing Chad Whyte saw his shot just go the wrong side of the far post.

However, the Skelmersdale supporters didn't have to wait very long for a goal. On 24 minutes Skelmersdale won a corner, Wall swung the ball into the six-yard box and Grogan hoisted himself above everyone else and directed a header over keeper Durrant and into the net.

It was just before the interval when Ilkeston got their first chance and it drew them level. Rory Coleman drove the ball head-height into the box, it was headed down and Malachi Lavelle-Moore stabbed the ball into the net.

Chad Whyte heads fractions wide. Picture by John Driscoll

There had been a spell midway through the first half when the referee flashed four rather unnecessary yellow cards, two to each team and it came back to haunt him on 63 minutes.

Shelton ran at the Skem defence and appeared to go down very easily, giving the referee little choice but to give him a second yellow.

On 77 minutes Skem got their second. Whyte ran on to a long ball from Dylan Smith, his shot went under Durrant but just as it looked odds on to be cleared off the line Hazeldine stuck his foot in and it was a goal.

Ilkeston started to press as Skem fell back deeper, but the new resolve Skelmersdale have came good and they held on fairly comfortably in the end.

Next up for Skem is another home game against Halesowen Town on Saturday.

Spirits high after five signings

SPIRITS are high at Skelmersdale United after Saturday's 2-1 win against Ilkeston and this weekend they have real hopes of building on the win when they host Halesowen Town.

Tommy Lawson brought in five new signings over an eight-day period immediately prior to the Ilkeston game and it does seem to have had the desired effect.

Old-fashioned centre-forward Chad Whyte has come from Marine and his marauding style did add considerably to Skem's threat up front.

Midfielder Michael Grogan has arrived from Warrington Town - he had previously had a three-year spell with AFC Telford United in the National League - and he announced his arrival with a superb headed goal in the 24th minute against Ilkeston.

Paul Foy has done well down the righthand side, having signed for Skelmersdale from Stalybridge Celtic after a brief stay with Burscough.

Two other defenders have signed, Dylan Smith and Jason Jefferies.

The former has made three appearances since signing from Clitheroe, while the latter was with Witton Albion earlier in the season and is expected to have made his debut in the League Cup tie that was scheduled against Colne last night (Tuesday).

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